













## HOME NEWS

## Doctor says serum not justified for boy

The jury at a fatal accident inquiry in Glasgow yesterday returned a verdict that Raymond Leitch, aged five, died from an adder bite. The boy died in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, on July 1, two days after he was bitten during a family outing.

His father, Mr Ronald Leitch, aged 43, of Lifford Crescent, Paisley, Strathclyde, moved from the two-day inquiry yesterday and on Thursday after interrupting the proceedings. His outburst was over the treatment his son received.

Dr David Wallace, a retired doctor who was acting as locum consultant at the time, told the inquiry that he saw the boy in hospital on June 30, when his condition was fair. He was not in shock.

Asked if he thought anti-venom serum should have been injected when he saw the boy, he said: "Not at that stage. Anti-venom is not without risk. I do not think his condition justified the use of the serum."

Dr Robert Pugh, medical registrar at the hospital, said he saw the boy on the evening of June 30. He was asleep and in a satisfactory condition. The next morning he got an emergency call and found that the boy had collapsed and there was no heartbeat. Attempts to resuscitate him had no effect.

Dr Alexander Proudfoot, of the regional poisons treatment centre at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, said that in five years up to 1974 his bureau had inquiries about six children and five adults bitten by adders. None died.

## In brief

## Commonwealth entrants increase

Commonwealth citizens with work permits admitted to Britain in the third quarter of 1975 totalled 1,018, compared with 859 in the corresponding period last year, the Home Office said yesterday.

The number of Commonwealth citizens, mainly dependants, accepted for settlement on arrival, rose from 6,591 to 8,805.

## Mugged man dies

Mr Cyril Besser, aged 64, died in hospital yesterday from pneumonia after suffering injuries a fortnight ago when attacked and robbed of £1 by six youths at Stoke Newington Common, London.

## Labour holds on

The return of Mr Terry Griffiths as a borough councillor by-election at Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, enabled Labour to retain its one-vote majority over other parties.

## Hospitals overspend

Cumbria area health authority overspent by £250,000 during the first half of 1975, it was disclosed yesterday. Hearings of hospitals may be reduced to save money.

## Correction

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (C. Newbury) voted against the motion to restore the death penalty on Thursday. Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson (C. New Forest) voted for it.

The MP for Bosworth who voted for the motion was Mr A. Butler.

The full division list appeared in later editions of The Times yesterday.

## European Parliament could become monster, MP says

By Our Political Staff

The European Parliament could grow into a monster which might rival and even supersede national parliaments, Mr John Biffen, Conservative MP for Oswestry, said yesterday.

Once the Strasbourg assembly had the moral authority conferred by direct elections it would be only a matter of time before its ambitions clashed with those of other law-making bodies. "Such a clash could make the present conflicts over Scottish devolution look petty by comparison."

Mr Biffen said the Strasbourg politicians were in the privileged position of being able to increase public spending without having a corresponding obligation to tax, because the money was voted by national parliaments.

This year the national governments had pruned the European budget prepared by servants in the Commission, but the MPs at Strasbourg had then "busily set about restoring as much as possible of the proposed original spending."

Mr Biffen argued that the

EEC could be "lumbered" with a new centre of government rapidly expanding a budget that had to be financed by taxes voted elsewhere. "The Strasbourg monster will have become a spending monster."

He believed such a development would sour European relations rather than enhance the unity of the EEC.

Concern about another type of conflict between government organizations was expressed yesterday by Mr Nicholas Edwards, MP, Conservative spokesman on Wales, who complained of schemes emerging from the Welsh Office.

Referring in a speech at Wrexham to the Government's devolution plans, he said: "We are to have two rival governments established to manage Welsh affairs, operating within a costly bureaucratic structure that seems to have been designed to produce conflict."

"We have too much government. It is too expensive and it is too complicated. But the Labour Party is determined to give us more government, to make it more expensive and to make it more complicated."

## WEST EUROPE

## Nato will offer to withdraw 1,000 tactical nuclear weapons if Russia removes a tank army

From David Cross

Brussels, Dec 12

Nato foreign ministers ended a two-day meeting in Brussels today by endorsing a new offer to withdraw some of their nuclear weapons from central Europe in exchange for the withdrawal of a Soviet tank army.

The new proposal, which will be put to the Warsaw Pact countries next week, is designed to break the long stalemate in the East-West talks in Vienna for reductions of military forces in Europe. It will be accompanied by Nato insistence that the negotiations must lead to an "approximate parity in ground forces in the form of a common collective ceiling" for manpower on each side.

Although the final communiqué issued after the ministerial talks gave no details of the new offer, it is understood to involve the withdrawal of about 1,000 of the estimated 7,000 tactical nuclear weapons the United States now has stored in Europe, together with some 29,000 American troops. The weapons range from rockets and shells to land mines.

In return, the Russians would agree to withdraw one of their armies, consisting of about 1,700 tanks and nearly 70,000 men.

The reaction of the Russians to the new offer remains unclear, but they have always maintained that the manpower cuts must be numerically similar. By contrast, the alliance has always argued that existing

Soviet superiority in manpower must be reduced to some 700,000 troops in central Europe on each side.

The West Germans, who have been concerned that the offer might be interpreted as a sign that the American commitment to European defence was being curtailed, today emphasized their partners' commitment to the goal of parity in ground forces. Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said that existing disparities were the "greatest factor of instability in Europe".

Senior British officials said they expected the bargaining with the Warsaw Pact countries to be long, but the new offer represented "a serious effort" by the alliance to make progress in Vienna.

The suggested troop deal was the main new element to emerge from the two days of ministerial deliberations, which were dominated by the alliance's relations with eastern Europe. In a wide-ranging debate on détente and the aftermath of the Helsinki security and cooperation agreement, Soviet intentions in Angola came to the fore.

Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, reiterated his view that Soviet intervention in Angola was upsetting the world balance of power. The United States favoured negotiations within Angola's "freedom of outside interference," he told a press conference. But, failing this, his government would try to prevent the Russians from achieving dominance "by means

of the massive introduction of outside equipment."

On the internal front, the foreign ministers agreed to intensify their efforts to standardize their military equipment, in a move which may one day coax the French back into the military side of the alliance. The first step will be the setting up of a working group to prepare by next spring a programme for making arms produced in any one country more interchangeable with those of other Nato member states.

Both Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, and Dr Kissinger were apparently optimistic of new progress being made in the Cyprus dispute after the separate meetings with the Greek and Turkish foreign ministers here. Dr Kissinger said he thought the prospects for a resumption of the intercommunal talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots were good.

In addition, he was very happy that the final details of the new American-Turkish military agreement could be worked out by the end of next month, when the Turkish Foreign Minister is due to visit Washington.

After a later meeting between the Greek and Turkish ministers, the two sides decided to support new efforts by Dr Weidmann, the United Nations Secretary-General, to reconvene the intercommunal negotiations. Greek and Turkish officials said this was a significant step forward.

## Dutch siege mediator threatens to give up

From Sue Masterman

The Hague, Dec 12

The Rev Samuel Metlari, the principal mediator in Amsterdam, where six Moluccan terrorists have been holding 25 hostages in the Indonesian Consulate for nine days, has told the garrison that he will no longer mediate if they do not seriously consider his order on behalf of the elders of the Moluccan community of 33,000 to surrender.

His action, he said, had achieved its aim of worldwide publicity for the Moluccan cause.

An hour after their telephone conversation with Mr Metlari, who was speaking from Amsterdam police headquarters, the terrorists rang back and asked to talk to him again; but he had left the building without saying where he was going.

Two other mediators took a similar message to the six gunmen who are still holding more than 20 hostages in an unheated hijacked train near Beilen. The train siege has now lasted 11 days.

This is the time of year which the Dutch call "the dark days before Christmas", and today it lived up to its name with low threatening clouds, a steady drizzle and occasional mist.

In Beilen and Amsterdam, the armed state roll by the soldiers patrol along the barbed-wire coil defences and peer menacingly from behind walls of chest-high sandbags.

In Amsterdam the six gunmen politely agreed to return the hostages but the ransom had been delivered two days before, so that they could be used again.

The medical staff standing by in Beilen to help the train hostages are becoming increasingly worried about the risks to health of freeing the nights in the unheated train. The eldest of the hostages is a man of 72.

Dutch railways now estimate the total number of hostages in the train at 25. Even with 120 Red Cross blankets, delivered in stages with the food, the strain must be telling. The gunmen have refused to let a volunteer technician enter the train to repair the heating.

The only other news during the day consisted of isolated incidents—some in the "stranger than fiction" category. For example there was the case of the illiterate Turkish labourer who, unaware of the whole terrorist episode and who much more occupied by his own sufferings from conjunctivitis and a jawbone abscess, ventured out wearing dark glasses and a warm woollen coat and hat.

Between the surgeries of the doctor and the dentist, he called in at the post office to deposit his hard-earned wages. He was promptly arrested by the local flying squad which had been summoned by an alarmed public.

There are also sad incidents, some evidently arising from the sieges. A 16-year-old Moluccan schoolboy, trapped home in tears after Dutch chemists had beaten her up, torn her schoolbooks to shreds and thrown them and her satchel into the nearest canal. Such memories die hard.



Kidnap victim freed: Signor Giovanni Schiaffino, aged 20, the kidnappd son of an Italian sugar magnate, being embraced by his mother after he was set free early yesterday near Genoa. He was abducted on November 22 as he drove a girl friend home and held to ransom for 2,000 lire (£1.4m). He wrote to his family last Tuesday that if the ransom was not paid his kidnappers would cut off two of his fingers and send them to his father. It was not known how much was eventually paid for his release. Signor Schiaffino, one of 53 kidnap victims in Italy this year, telephoned his parents from a village in the hills to say: "I'm safe and sound at last."

## Naples crowds pelt union leaders with vegetables

From Our Correspondent

Rome, Dec 12

Extremist groups hurled vegetables and buns at trade union leaders and drowned their speeches with whistles and chants during a massive demonstration in Naples today.

Between 200,000 and 300,000 workers from all over Italy had converged on Naples for a rally organized by the three main trade union federations to demand a new economic policy for the underdeveloped south.

The unions are pressing for the problems of the south, with its 700,000 unemployed, to be tackled as an integral part of the country and not an appendage.

At the same time, industrial and agricultural workers held an eight-hour national strike in support of the Naples rally.

A public opinion poll disclosed meanwhile that the fear of unemployment has taken the place of rising prices as the Italians' main worry. More than 37 per cent of the population believed it was the most urgent problem to be tackled, while 32 per cent were most worried about the cost of living.

The reverse of the position 12 months ago when, with inflation running at more than 25 per cent, some 40 per cent were preoccupied with prices and 16 per cent with unemployment.

Contrary groups like the Christian Democrats were equally doubtful. Signor Joaquin Ruiz-Gimenez, whose father, a former Education Minister, now heads the Democratic Christian left, said: "It is a ghost government. But it is obvious that the soft line has prevailed over the hard one."

Several members of the Government belong to a group assembled by Signor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the Interior Minister, and former Ambassador in London. They include Signor José María Arellano, the Foreign Minister, and Signor Adolfo Martín Garmelo, the Information and Tourism Minister. Signor Fraga and Signor Arellano are cited as the liberals in the Government but their earlier record for dubious policy in the province had to fulfil what they are in government.

As reported in The Times in September, the Bonn Transport Ministry asked the board to undertake a fundamental restructuring of the network to eliminate the vast and growing deficit, or at least to reduce it to manageable proportions.

The board has been looking at three possibilities, involving reductions of respectively 80, 66 and 50 per cent, and has chosen the least drastic, for social reasons. A smaller annual government subsidy would still be needed if the network were to be cut by half, or else the awesome accumulated deficit, now standing at £3,962m would continue to grow.

It is already clear that the Government will not accept the board's proposals. Herr Scheideit, the Minister of Transport, said this week that no railwayman would be dismissed. A scheme already in operation to reduce the work force by 60,000 by 1979 relies on natural wastage.

The board also wants to reduce its labour force of nearly 400,000 by half. At present, no less than 72 per cent of West German railway expenditure goes on staff. This helps to explain why West German rail-

sion for persons engaged on the heaviest type of shift work, or work under trying conditions, on building sites or in steel plants for five years in the past 15 years, and who have been socially insured for 42 years. Women with three children engaged for manual work will also be able to benefit from the Bill.

It will only affect now about 55,000 manual workers increasing to 100,000 in two years' time.

## Plan to cut West German rail network by half

From Dan van der Vat

Bonn, Dec 12

Controversy over the future size of the British rail system is matched in West Germany, where the Federal Railway Board wants to reduce the network by half.

Today's editions of Die Welt of Bonn carry a list of the proposed closures, a month before the proposals are due to be published and the same day as the British press printed claims by three railway unions that British Rail planned to cut its network by two thirds.

The West German plan would reduce the present 18,125 miles of track to 9,072 miles. Abandoned routes would be served by railway buses, ironically the only division of the Federal Railways making a profit at present over a network of 62,500 miles.

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## Spain again releases trade union leader

From Harry Debohus

Madrid, Dec 12

Democratic opposition groups said today that they do not think the new Government will last very long unless it quickly introduces reform. The differing groups all agree that the Government is one of transition, and that its credibility depends on making the promised reforms a reality.

As a possible sign that liberalization is imminent, authorities this morning decided not to bring further charges against Señor Marcelino Camacho, the leader of the Workers' Commissions, the illegal trade union movement. He was set free after spending five days in police custody. Señor Camacho was arrested for allegedly directing demonstrations outside Carabanchel prison, demanding an amnesty. In fact, he was arrested near his home.

But while Señor Camacho was free his colleague, Father Federico García Salve, the Roman Catholic workers' priest, is still being held. He was fined £1,687 without trial this week, having been arrested when he returned to Madrid a week ago. The police alleged that he organized a communist demonstration at the station on arrival. He may face charges, but these have not been determined by the political Public Order Court.

On his release Señor Camacho said that the new Government: "We have no wait to see what is going to be done. There are some people in the Government who say they are liberal, but liberal in the regime's context."

It is possible that Señor Camacho was released at the request of King Juan Carlos. Several people, including members of his family, attempted to make contact with the King about his arrest. Señora María Cauda, an actress and daughter of Señor Mariano Cauda, Meadina, the former Air Minister, spoke to the King's secretary on Wednesday. Señor Camacho's wife telephoned the King's secretary to ask for an audience and the secretary suggested that she write to the King.

Mr Raul Maradeo, a lawyer, of the Popular Socialist Party said: "I am neither pessimistic nor optimistic, but if the authorities continue arresting people, if they do not return passports, if they continue restricting the press, if they abolish the Guerrilleros (the Warriors for Christ the King, a right-wing activist group) as a military force, I will lose faith. It is a Government for the Christmas season, a very transitory one."

Another Socialist leader, Professor Enrique Tizcano Galván, said: "It is a Government which Franco could have appointed five or six years ago."

Centre groups like the Christian Democrats were equally doubtful. Signor Joaquin Ruiz-Gimenez, whose father, a former Education Minister, now heads the Democratic Christian left, said: "It is a ghost government. But it is obvious that the soft line has prevailed over the hard one."

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## OVERSEAS

## Mr Reagan overtakes President Ford as party choice, poll says

From Fred Emery

Washington, Dec 12

Mr Ronald Reagan has jumped in one month from 23 points behind President Ford to eight points ahead of him in the first poll of Republican preferences taken since the challenges were announced his candidature. The Gallup Poll sample published today was a small one, subject to an error margin of 8 per cent either way. Nonetheless, the result was dramatic and stunned the White House.

Mr Ford's campaign manager tried to discount the publicity reaction to Mr Reagan's announcement. True enough, the reversal took place at the time but, as noted by The New York Times political editor, "the poll's findings were a major political event in themselves."

Those in the sample claiming to be Republicans chose Mr Reagan by 40 per cent over 32 per cent for Mr Ford. The rest were scattered over a host of Republicans who are not candidates with 10 per cent for the next nearest, Senator Barry Goldwater. In October the result had been 48 per cent for Mr Ford and 25 per cent for Mr Reagan.

Among those in the sample claiming to be "independent" Mr Reagan again turned the tables on Mr Ford, although by a smaller margin of 27 to 25 per cent. In October Mr Ford led 26 to 20 among independents.

There are just over 10 weeks

in the first primary election between Mr Reagan and Ford in New Hampshire. Ford, of course, can reconvene. Mr Reagan could stumble and the President's lead could dominate the lines with his late presentation of the Budget State of the Union proposal. But it looks like a battle. The reversal occurred while Mr Reagan's name was being announced, and in rather lack luster at that. So the result must be that Republican main unimpressed with Ford's performance—his not answering over the rescue of New York over during this time—and to see a challenge.

Ironically, it has taken glare away from the struggling Democrats, who were to be joined in November. Senator Frank Lautenberg, a Democrat, today registered a caucus.

Mr George Moscone, a Democrat, today narrowly lost a San Francisco runoff election. Although he favoured Mr Moscone on beat John Barbagelato, tough conservative Rep who campaigned for strict city expenditure employment. In nearly 2 years he secured 50.2 per cent. He succeeds Mr Joseph P. Moynihan in office in past eight years.

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## Mr Nkomo says choice is 'negotiation or gun'

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Dec 12

The talks between the Rhodesian Government and Mr Joshua Nkomo's wing of the African National Council (ANC), which are due to begin in earnest on Monday, were the "last chance" of reaching a peaceful solution to the country's constitutional crisis, Mr Nkomo said in Salisbury today.

In an interview with The Times before flying to his home town of Bulawayo, he said it was a question of whether or not there was to be immediate majority rule but how this aim was to be achieved.

"We can either get there by negotiation or by the gun. If it is through negotiation, then everyone will have a say. By the gun, well, dead people make no sense to make up their minds."

He gave a warning that Mr Ian Smith and his Rhodesian Front Government had to come to terms with the changed situation in Southern Africa. Events were moving very fast, particularly with the independence of Mozambique and the Rev. Muzorewa and the Rev. banyani Sibhona, as "refugee" He was not going to attempt mend fences with the group as his organization tended to solve the constitutional problem for everyone.

Mr Nkomo was seen about the civil branch of ANC and described its exiled leaders, Bishop Muzorewa and the Rev. banyani Sibhona, as "refugee" He was not going to attempt mend fences with the group as his organization tended to solve the constitutional problem for everyone.

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# Polling day for Australians after surprisingly peaceful election campaign belied fears of violence

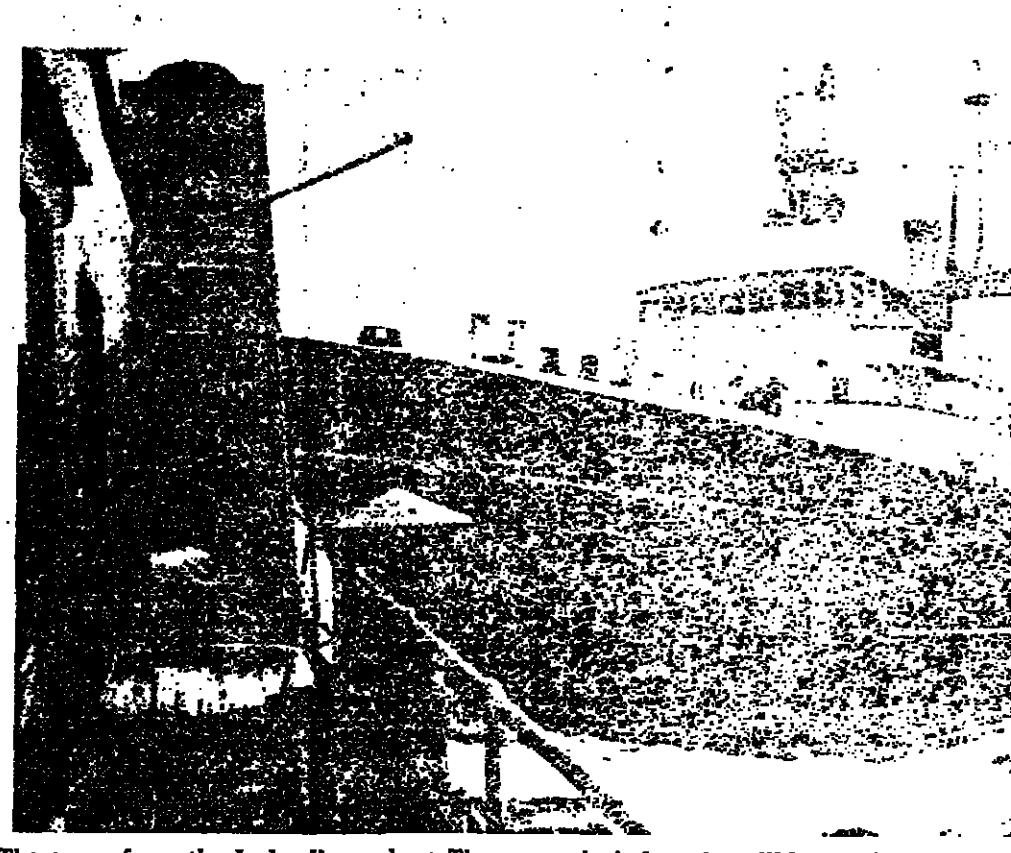
om Michael Leapman  
nberra, Dec 12

The leaders of the two main parties wound up a surprisingly peaceful election campaign today when they addressed enthusiastic rallies of their supporters. Mr Gough Whitlam, the Labour leader, spoke at lunch in a park in the centre of Sydney while Mr Malcolm Fraser, the caretaker Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal-Conservative Party coalition, addressed meetings in his home town of Victoria. Polling is tomorrow.

The violence and ill-feeling which had been expected at the beginning of the campaign never reached the level expected. When, just before the election was announced, letter-bombs were sent to Mr Fraser and to Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, there were fears that incidents might continue. The compulsory cut-off of television at midnight on Wednesday has made the last two days of the campaign into a political television news fest. The Liberal-Conservative coalition seem far removed from such long reports on cricket and the weather, an unusual quantity of film on overseas.

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The scene from the Icelandic gunboat Thor seconds before it collided with the British protection vessel Lloydsman.

## Mr Callaghan asks Iceland not to engage in 'virility battle'

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Dec 12

It would be ridiculous for Britain and Iceland to engage in a "virility battle" over fishing rights, Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, said today.

In a move apparently designed to coax the Icelanders to the conference table, he said he recognised the vital interest of Iceland in fish conservation. A first step might be to reach agreement on total annual catches from Icelandic waters and a period over which stocks would be able to recover.

Mr Callaghan, who was attending a meeting of Nato foreign ministers, also made it clear that his government was willing to go below an annual British catch of 100,000 tons in the conference table, he said. He is apparently thinking in terms of an annual quota of somewhere around 90,000 or 95,000 tons.

Reporting back to his Nato colleagues on the results of a 40-minute talk with Mr Einar Agustsson, the Icelandic Foreign Minister, last night, the Foreign Secretary said he could realistically see no prospect of compromise at this stage. This appeared impossible at a time when Mr Agustsson was saying the annual catch for British fishermen of 65,000 tons was final.

He repeated his government's offer of willingness to meet the Icelanders "at any time, at any place and any level". He would also accept mediation by a third party, although this idea so far had been rejected by the Icelanders.

Speaking to journalists after today's Nato talks, he said he thought the British position had the support of many of his Nato colleagues. Sympathies were more evenly balanced than in the past because of British willingness to work towards a compromise, he said. This contrasted with talk of ultimatums from the other side.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes: The British Government is considering the possibility of asking an international mediator to help resolve the fishing dispute with Iceland.

Responding to the suggestion in the Commons from Mr Mauding, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, that some distinguished and impartial international figure might act as a mediator between the two sides, Mr Hattersley, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that this suggestion was being examined.

The difficulty was the Icelanders' traditional opposition to mediation and their insistence that the only way progress could be made was for Britain to accept their figure on catch limits.

In a statement on Thursday's encounter, when the gunboat Thor fired one of the civilian defence vessels which was sheltering from severe weather inside Icelandic territorial waters, Mr Hattersley said that Mr Callaghan had made the strongest protest at this action.

Promising the support of the Opposition, Mr Mauding said that this was an ugly and worrying situation. Iceland was not the easiest country with which to reach agreement but he urged a new initiative.

One or two MPs suggested that at the Law of the Sea conference to be resumed next year, the 200-mile limit would be recognized and that we might as well accept this now. Mr Hattersley replied that this would not be a sensible or an honourable position for the British Government to take.

On board HMS Brighton off Iceland, Dec 12.—The Icelandic patrol boat Thor, damaged yesterday in a collision with the British support ship Lloydsman, apparently did not put to sea today. The only patrol boat to move outside Iceland's 12-mile fishing limit, which the Tyr Britain recognizes, was the Tyr.

But it made no real attempt to interfere with British trawlers and was being shadowed by the Royal Navy frigate Falkmouth.

Reykjavik, Dec 12.—The Icelandic coastguard said Royal Navy frigates protecting British trawlers were today manning their guns in a dangerous new move.

The coastguard said the Icelandic patrol vessel Tyr sailed among the British trawler fleet off Iceland's east coast today and reported that the frigates were manning their guns.

It regarded the new move very seriously as it could be very dangerous. It believed the frigates were acting on orders from some higher authority.

Reuter.

## Soviet biologist jailed for seven years

Moscow, Dec 12.—A court in Vilnius, Lithuania, today sentenced Dr Sergei Kovalyov, the biologist, to seven years in a "strict regime" labour camp and to three years of internal exile.

His friend and fellow human rights campaigner, Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel laureate, heard of the verdict while waiting outside the courtroom from which he has been barred since the trial began on Monday. He called the sentence "unfair and harsh, a challenge to the conscience of mankind".

But the audience, which appeared to consist of handpicked Communist Party supporters, applauded when the verdict was read out, the Tass news agency said. It described the trial as "open", despite the barring of Dr Sakharov and others.

The court found Dr Kovalyov who is 45 and a member of Amnesty International, guilty of slandering the Soviet Union, producing disident newsletters and distributing copies of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's prison camp documentary *The Gulag Archipelago*.

"The sentence indicated that the defendant's guilt has been fully proved", Tass said. "He has been systematically preparing and circulating printed matter of a subversive nature in Lithuania and other parts of the Soviet Union for a long time. The printed matter contained lies and slander against the Soviet Government and social system."

Tass was referring to the *Chronicle of Current Events*, a dissident journal which Dr Kovalyov revived after KGB political police had suppressed it, and the *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*, an illegal bulletin of alleged repressions against the Soviet Union's minority of Roman Catholics.

Dr Kovalyov was also found guilty of distributing appeals and statements in the Soviet Union and abroad, some of which bore Dr Sakharov's signature as well.

Dr Sakharov said the trial proceeded with gross violations of generally accepted norms of justice—particularly because Dr Kovalyov was refused his choice of defence counsel and because he was then removed from court after taking on his own defence.

The court found Dr Kovalyov in contempt when he refused to take a further part in the trial until Dr Sakharov and other friends were allowed to be present in his defence.

As the crowd emerged from the courtroom, several people jeered and berated Dr Sakharov.—UPI.

## Socialists lose Canadian province

rom Jack Best  
nawa, Dec 12

The socialist New Democratic Party has been swept out of office in British Columbia. It was soundly defeated by a revived Social Credit Party in the provincial election yesterday, winning only 17 seats to Social Credit's 36.

The Liberals and Conservatives each won one seat in the 3-seat legislature. At the dissolution the NDP held 37 seats, Social Credit 14, and Liberals 2, and the Conservatives 1. There was one vacancy.

Social Credit, a right-wing party with a populist image, turned the British Columbia government for 20 years before being turned out of office by the NDP in 1972. It is led by Mr Bill Bennett, son of W. A. Bennett, who served as premier for those 20 years.

The election result was determined by a huge swing of Liberal and Conservative votes to Social Credit. The Social Credit Party increased its share of the popular vote to 50 per cent from about 37, while the NDP held steady at about 40 per cent.

Mr Dave Barrett, the premier, suffered a personal defeat, losing his Coquitlam seat, near Vancouver, to a Social Credit candidate by less than 90 votes.

The New Democrats based their unsuccessful campaign for election largely on the issue of leadership, saying that the province needed the flamboyant and assertive Mr Barrett to lead it through its economic situation. It did not put as much emphasis as some observers expected on Mr Barrett's wide-ranging social reforms.

Social Credit accused the government of economic mismanagement, which it held responsible for high unemployment.

Of the 10 Canadian provinces, the New Democrats now form the governments in two, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

## New Zealand bans British immigrants

By Robert Fisk  
Foreign News Staff

Mr Robert Muldoon, the new Prime Minister of New Zealand, yesterday placed a temporary ban on all British and Irish immigrants, but within a few hours the ban was lifted. The Commissioner in London said that there may be exceptions to the rule.

According to Mr Muldoon, who before his election was highly critical of British immigration, the ban was a temporary measure to deal with the high immigration level for the housing shortage.

But Air Commodore Frank Gill, the Immigration Minister, said that there would be exceptions for "exceptional cases" and in London Mr Hugh Watt, the High Commissioner, said that rare exceptions would be made on humanitarian and "occupational" grounds.

Husbands and wives of New Zealand citizens are in any case exempted from the ban, and the Government's election night majority has increased with delayed results in two more seats, both held formerly by Labour.

By Labour Cabinet Ministers.

Mr Joseph Wadding, former Minister of Overseas Trade, lost in Palmerston North and Mr Henry May, former Minister of Internal Affairs, in Western Hutt. The final state of the parties is National 55, Labour 32.

The new Cabinet is:

Prime Minister, Minister of Finance  
Mr Robert Muldoon, aged 54.  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Trade and National Development  
Mr Brian Talbot, aged 54.  
Minister of Labour and State Services  
Mr Peter Gordon, aged 54.  
Minister of Agriculture and Maori Affairs  
Mr David McIntyre, aged 50.  
Minister of Trade and Industry  
Mr Lance Adams-Schneider, aged 55.  
Minister of Justice  
Mr David Thomson, aged 60.  
Minister of Housing, Deputy Finance Minister  
Mr George Gair, aged 49.  
Minister of Education and Science  
Mr Leslie Samuels, aged 56.  
Minister of Health and Immigration  
Mr Commodore Frank Gill, aged 58.  
Minister of State  
Sir Keith Holyoake, aged 71.  
Minister of Transport  
Mr Colin MacLachlan, aged 51.  
Minister of Works  
Mr William Young, aged 62.  
Minister of Energy, Resources, Electricity and Mines  
Mr Eric Holland, aged 54.  
Minister of Defence and Police  
Mr Alan McCreedy, aged 59.  
Minister of Social Welfare  
Mr H. J. Walker, aged 56.  
Minister of Internal Affairs  
Mr Alan Bisset, aged 62.  
Attorney General, Associate Minister of Finance  
Mr Peter Wilkinson, aged 41.  
Minister of Lands and Environment  
Mr Venn Young, aged 46.  
Minister of Tourism  
Mr Henry Kapwepwe, aged 60.  
Postmaster General, Minister of Broadcasting  
Mr Hugh Templeton, aged 46.

## In brief

### Ford gun case: new plea sought

San Francisco, Dec 12.—Mrs Sara Jane Moore, accused of trying to shoot President Ford, today asked to change her plea to guilty, against the advice of her lawyer.

She made her request after saying she was not insane and wanted to make peace with herself. Her request was temporarily denied by Judge Samuel Conti, who set a hearing on the matter for Monday.

### FBI man's confession

Washington, Dec 12.—Mr James Hosty, a former Dallas FBI agent who investigated President Kennedy's assassination, testified before a House Judiciary subcommittee that on the orders of his boss he flushed down the lavatory a threatening letter from Lee Harvey Oswald.

### Politician murdered

Guatemala City, Dec 12.—Motorcycle gunmen today shot dead Senor Reynal Hernandez, parliamentarian leader of Guatemala's National Liberation Movement, in a daylight attack at one of the capital's busiest road junctions.

### Timor vote in UN

New York, Dec 12.—The "military intervention of the armed forces of Indonesia" in Timor was strongly deplored today by the United Nations General Assembly in a resolution endorsed by 72 votes to 10 with 43 abstentions.

### Rubbish strike over

New York, Dec 12.—Union leaders reached agreement today with private refuse firms and called off an 11-day strike that left thousands of tons of rubbish piled on the city's streets.

### Mr Giersek reelected

Warsaw, Dec 12.—Poland's Communist Party ended its seventh congress today by re-electing Mr Edward Giersek for another five years as First Secretary.

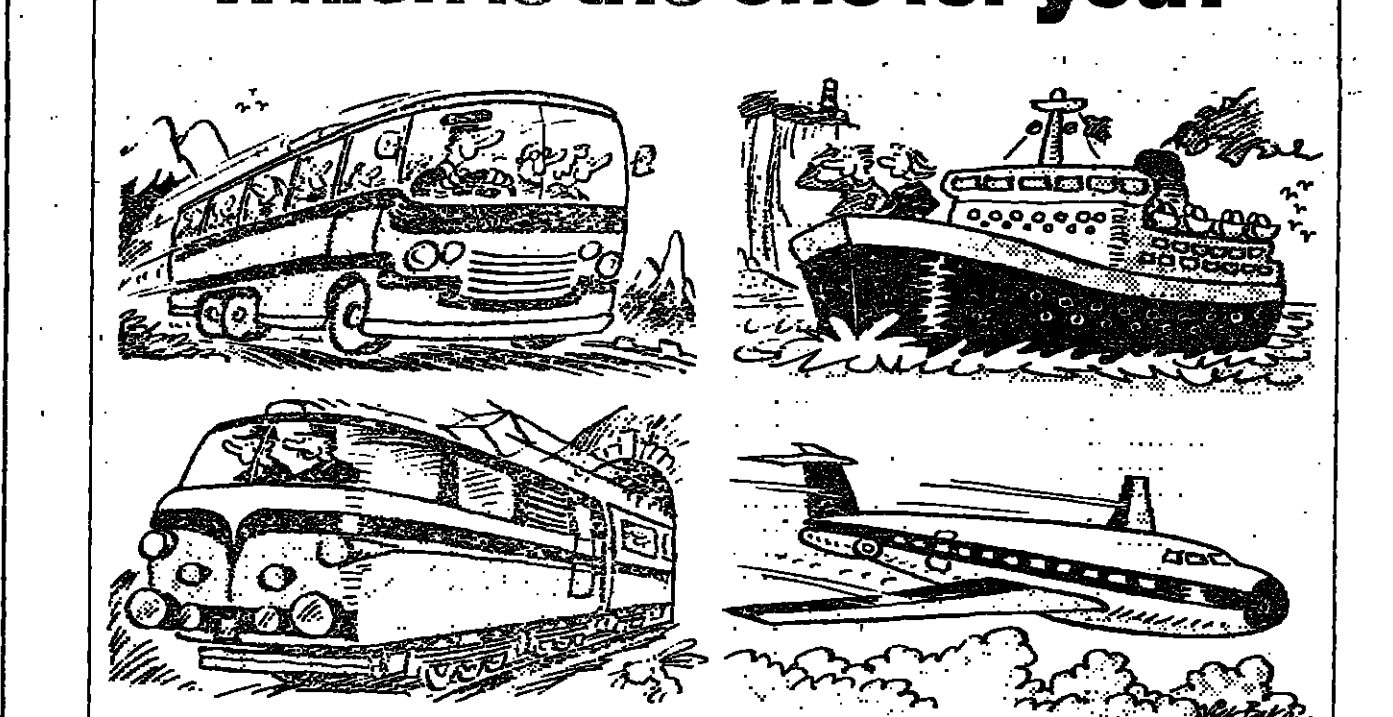
### Envoy promoted

Mr Fred Isingoma, Uganda's acting High Commissioner to Britain, has been promoted to High Commissioner.

### Changes in Nepal

Katmandu, Dec 12.—King Birendra announced sweeping amendments to Nepal's constitution, including measures to enlarge the National Assembly and broaden the electorate.

## Bus, boat, train or plane. Which is the one for you?



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A Travel Agent is a specialist in business and holiday travel, whose services can save you time and money—and whose advice is free.

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You want a car to meet your plane? He'll arrange it, together with sightseeing tours, theatre and restaurant reservations, to help you get the most out of your trip.

So when you travel, let an ABTA Travel Agent help with the planning.

Then all you have to do is enjoy your trip.

## Protest made to Ethiopia about missing Briton

Britain complained to Ethiopia yesterday about the complete lack of news concerning Mr Glynn Flood, the British anthropologist who vanished on his way from Addis Ababa to his town of Aisaita last May.

Mr Johannes Mesheles, the Ethiopian Charge d'Affaires, summoned to the Foreign Office to be told by Mr Martin Evans, the head of the East African department, that the British Government was "deeply concerned at the failure of the Ethiopian authorities to produce any information about Mr Flood's disappearance."

Mr Flood, who is 26, was carrying out research among the Afar tribesmen, who fear that he was bayoneted to death by government troops during military operations in Aisaita.

## IN MEMORY

1914-1918 1939-1945

Please help Sister Agnes's to assist all those who have held commissions in the Armed Forces, and their wives and widows who are in need of hospital treatment, and enable us to maintain our low charges, still less than half those of most other hospitals.

**KING EDWARD VII'S HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS**  
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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen  
Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, London W1N 2AA

Donations and enquiries to:  
Agnes's Secretary  
Air Chief Marshal  
Sir Edmund Tudor-Croft, G.C.B.  
6 Buckingham Place, London, SW1E 6HB

## Compensation for expelled Uganda Indians

Delhi, Dec 12.—The Indian Government announced today that it is to pay compensation to be paid to 6,000 Indian nationals expelled from Uganda in 1972. The total compensation to be paid was not disclosed but was described as "sizeable".

The terms of the agreement were worked out by an Indian delegation led by Mr J. S. Mehta, Additional Secretary in the Department of External Affairs, which spent four weeks in Uganda to study all the claims submitted.

The announcement said that compensation would be paid to the Indian Government which would distribute it to the individual claimants.—Reuter.

## Prosecutor sets up inquiry into Andreadis banks

The Athens director of prosecutions has ordered today a preliminary inquiry in connection with suspected irregularities in three Greek banks—the Commercial Bank of Greece, the Ionian and Populair Bank and the Investment Bank.

The three banks, which are controlled by Mr Stratis Andreadis, the shipowner financier, and father-in-law of Christine Onassis, were placed under compulsory administration by decree this week.

The Government move came after a confidential report by Bank of Greece inspectors indicating that bank assets had been sold in 1972 and 1973 to foreign corporations assumed to be personally owned by Mr Andreadis at heavy loss to the banks' shareholders.

## American envoy calls UN a 'theatre of the absurd'

From Patrick Brogan  
New York, Dec 12

Mr Patrick Moynihan, the American representative at the United Nations, exploded in rage again yesterday evening in a denunciation of a report issued by the United Nations committee on colonialism. He said the world organization was "becoming a theatre of the absurd" because it put its seal of approval on "lies, lies" about the United States.

The report, on the committee's work, and the United States for threatening the independence and sovereignty of Latin American states by their military bases in the Caribbean. Mr Moynihan made the great play with the fact that two of those bases are Coast Guard stations in the American Virgin Islands, which are equipped with one shotgun, one pistol, and 23ft rescue boat.

Other members were more interested in Cuba. Mr Moynihan said: "I begin to feel that the increasing contempt in the world for the United Nations is increasingly deserved."

"The United Nations has got to the point where responsible and truthful representatives are prepared to accept a report of concern to all of us which is riddled with untruths."

He denounced the Soviet Union for "reintroducing colonialism to Africa" by interfering in Angola.

The report was approved by the General Assembly by 108 votes to three—those of America, Israel and Nicaragua, Britain and most other European states abstained.

Leading article, page 15

## Nigerian army cuts

Lagos, Dec 12.—The military Government is to demobilize 100,000 of Nigeria's 250,000-strong army to increase efficiency.

## Flats fire kill 12

San Francisco, Dec 12.—A fire, believed to be the work of an arsonist, swept through a five-storey apartment building here, killing at least 12 people.



SPORT

Rugby Union

# Grey areas aplenty especially at half back and scrummage

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

This season's new format for national trials, wherein an embryonic England XV is matched three weeks running against regional sides, has been hailed as a step towards a more professional approach for the selectors. It has also been hailed as a step towards a more professional approach for the selectors. It has also been hailed as a step towards a more professional approach for the selectors.



Smith (left) and Cooper: need platform to advance claims.

Burton has been promoted to the England side, his place in the regional team now going to Adam, of Walsley and Middlesbrough, a hard scrumming player who will be taken to his chance against Neill. I suggested some weeks ago that the players should be selected for England in the first international, against Australia on January 3, probably could be one hand, and I doubt if events at Leicester last week significantly increased that number. The greatest of good players competing for a lot of places.

abandon their idea of playing Under 16. That fine competition, Ripley, now playing at No 8 in the regional side, will be seeking to change their minds for different reasons, but they need to produce some consistently tidy distribution to do so. I believe the Leicester trial left questions unanswered by both England players, and I suspect that Neill, in particular, could be on trial this afternoon as a lead. Duckham, hopefully, should get some ball to run, the selectors will look for reassurance from that quarter. His challenge, even though he has to go looking for it. The England centres, Maxwell and Corless, may have to withstand a strong challenge from their rivals, Kent and Rutter. I have always felt that Kent is the sort of player whose undoubted strength and determination needs to be set up by his colleagues, and the better the class he plays in—as with the Barbarians—the better he is likely to go.

Hockey

## Eastern Counties should reach final

By Sydney Friskin

At this time of year divisional hockey usually takes precedence as it gives the England selector an opportunity to take note of rising talent. The traditional senior event which was held at Derby last year has now given way to the under-21 tournament, the first of which is being held today and tomorrow on the grounds of the Officers' Club, Aldershot.

the junior European international tournament to be held in May or June. The details of this event will be announced by the European Hockey Federation (EHF) at their meeting at Caen on January 28. Their aim is to organize a junior world tournament. A great deal of work has already been done by the Combined Services Hockey Association (CSHA) under the direction of the Army Sports Control Board to make the tournament at Aldershot a success. The teams taking part have been split into two groups as follows: Pool A: West, North, South, Pool B: East, Midlands, Combined Services. The winners of the two pools will meet in the final tomorrow, starting at 2.30.

Weekend fixtures

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated.

FA Cup second round

- Aldershot v Bishop's Cleeve
- Bournemouth v Hereford
- Bury v Spennymoor Utd (3.15)
- Cardiff v Wycombe W
- Coventry Sporting v Peterboro
- Gateshead v Rochdale
- Gillingham v Brighton
- Hendon v Swindon
- Huddersfield v Port Vale
- Leatherhead v Tooting and M
- Manfield v Lincoln
- Marine v Hartlepool (2.0)
- Milton v C Palace
- Rotherham v Bradford
- Scarborough v Preston
- Sheffield Wed v Wigan Ath
- Shrewsbury v Chester
- Southern v Dover (7.30)
- Stafford R v Halifax
- Wimbledon v Brentford

First division

- Aston Villa v Norwich
- Burnley v West Ham
- Everton v Birmingham
- Ipswich v Leeds
- Leicester v Newcastle
- Manchester C v Coventry
- QPR v Derby
- Sheffield U v Manchester U
- Stoke v Arsenal
- Tottenham v Liverpool
- Wolves v Middlesbrough

Second division

- Bristol City v Hull
- Carlisle v Chelsea
- Fulham v Bolton
- Luton v West Bromwich
- Nottm Forest v Portsmouth
- Oldham v Blackburn
- Souhampton v Notts Co
- Sunderland v Oxford Utd
- York v Bristol Rovers

Third division

- Wrexham v Colchester

Fourth division

- Darlington v Cambridge Utd
- Doncaster v Tranmere
- Exeter v Northampton
- Reading v Scunthorpe

Scottish premier division

- Celtic v Aberdeen
- Dundee Utd v Hearts
- Hibernian v Motherwell
- Rangers v Ayr
- St Johnstone v Dundee

Scottish first division

- Airdrie v Clyde
- East Fife v St Mirren
- Falkirk v Partick
- Hamilton v Arbroath
- Kilmarnock v Motherwell
- Morton v Dumbarton
- Queen of S v Dunfermline

Scottish second division

- Cydebank v Meadowbank
- Stirling Alb v Forth

ATHLETIC LEAGUE: First division

- Kingstonian v Havant, Oxford United v Reading, Walsley v Walsley, Walsley v Walsley

ATHLETIC LEAGUE: Second division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

ATHLETIC LEAGUE: Third division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

ATHLETIC LEAGUE: Fourth division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

ATHLETIC LEAGUE: Fifth division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

Scottish Cup first round

- Aldon Rvrs v Hawick R A
- Brechin v Berwick (2.0)
- E Strirling v Alloa
- Elgin City v Forres M (2.15)
- Peterhead v Raith (2.15)
- Stranraer v Queen's Park (2.15)

Hockey

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Divisional under-21 tournament (Aldershot, 13-14 Dec). LONDON LEAGUE: Blackheath v Repton, 13 Dec, 7.30; Old Blundell v Old Blundell, 13 Dec, 7.30; Old Blundell v Old Blundell, 13 Dec, 7.30.

Lacrosse

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division, 13 Dec, 7.30; Second division, 13 Dec, 7.30; Third division, 13 Dec, 7.30.

FOOTBALL: First division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

FOOTBALL: Second division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

FOOTBALL: Third division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

FOOTBALL: Fourth division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

FOOTBALL: Fifth division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

FOOTBALL: Sixth division

- Reading v Walsley, Walsley v Reading, Walsley v Reading

Football

# West London to miss a rare entertainer

By Norman Fox

Apart from Liverpool's UEFA Cup win in the fog at Anfield, the week has not been kind to football. Threats of bankruptcy, short-time work and the emigration of players and managers have all added to a depression that exists because of the poor value for money of the average Football League match. The single point of agreement put forward as a reason for this is that there is not enough entertainment to go round. How ironic, then, that the West Ham and Liverpool match on Tuesday, the Queen's Park match in London, the stage will not be illuminated by the talents of the great entertainer, Steve Bowles.

Bowles, seemingly unhappy about not being able to get a house in London and fed up with living in a flat; is also annoyed at the police's attitude towards him and other "personal problems", asked to be left out of Rangers' team to play against the former Manchester City, last week-end, and because the side played well without him, he is not wanted back today.

He has trained throughout the week but Leach continues in the striking position and Hollins in defence. Bowles, who has been described as "a bit of a clown", said: "We had to play without him at Maine Road and we got a good result. We will be trying to do even better tomorrow. He is worth four points." Bowles, it seems, cannot be priced in terms of points.

Neither Liverpool nor Leeds have been at their most impressive in recent League matches. Even the Anfield crowd are down in number and spirit and Elland Road has only occasionally seen a top atmosphere. One would expect at the home of championship challengers, but Leeds could still be at the top of the first division. The right-wing, the permutation of results including a victory for themselves at Ipswich. They have Clarke fit after a groin injury, and the manager, Dave Mackay, said yesterday: "You don't pay that sort of money for a player who is dropped but only for one game because from next Saturday Lee starts a four-match suspension. I will be surprised if James becomes an ever-present in the team."

Christmas shopping will take its toll from today's game receipts. Perhaps, though, some of the thousands who have been allowed to avoid the market place on the pretext of supporting a local cause. The plight of Luton town comes to mind. It is possible time for dividing loyalties.

Mr Mackay was in a provocative mood yesterday. He said: "I have always felt Rangers were a gifted side but they are not among those teams I consider a real danger to us for the championship. You need a bit extra for that, so West Ham and Liverpool are the sides I consider the greatest threat. This was shown last night when the fact that Rangers beat Derby 5-1 at the Baseball Ground in August, when Bowles scored three, Rangers' manager, Dave Mackay, took a moment's pause in saying: "This will be an entirely different match. Both teams have improved since and defeat will put neither out of the title race."

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Cricket

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From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Perth, Dec 12

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Chappell's hundred is his fourteenth in Test matches. Only Bradman (29) and Harvey (21) have got more than that for Australia. In their case genius played a great part; in Chappell's it has been more the will to fight. Today Chappell was contending for the most part with fast bowling. There was only 10 minutes to go to tea when Gibbs had his first of the day's 100. Chappell's batting is so much a feature of this team and which off spinners like to target. Chappell's batting is so much a feature of this team and which off spinners like to target. Chappell's batting is so much a feature of this team and which off spinners like to target.

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# The first year of my life

by Muriel Spark



Illustration by Franklin Wilson

I was born on the first day of the second month of the last year of the First World War, a Friday. Testimony abounds that during the first year of my life I never smiled. I was known as the baby whom nothing and no one could make smile. Everyone who knew me then has told me so. They tried very hard, singing and bouncing me up and down, jumping around, pulling faces. Many times I was told this later by my family and their friends; but, anyway, I knew it at the time.

You will shortly be hearing of that new school of psychology, or maybe you have heard of it already, which, after long and far-advancing research and experiment has established that all of the young of the human species are born omniscient. Babies, in their waking hours, know everything that is going on everywhere in the world; they can tune in to any conversation they choose, switch on to any scene. We have all experienced this power. It is only after the first year that it was brainwashed out of us; for it is demanded of us by our immediate environment that we grow to be of use to it in a practical way. Gradually, our know-all brains are blacked out, although traces remain in some individuals in the form of ESP, and in the adults of some primitive tribes.

It is not a new theory. Poets and philosophers, as usual, have been there first. But scientific proof is now ready and to hand. Perhaps the final touches are being put to the new manifesto in some cell at Harvard University. Any day now it will be given to the world, and the world will be convinced.

Let me therefore get my word in first, because I feel pretty sure, now, about the authenticity of my remembrance of things past. My autobiography, as I very well perceived at the time, started in the very worst year that the world had ever seen so far. Apart from being born bedridden and rootless, unable to raise myself on the pillow or utter anything but farmyard squawks or police-siren wails, my bladder and my

bowels totally out of control, I was further depressed by the curious behaviour of the two-legged mammals around me. There were those black-dressed people, females of the species to which I appeared to belong, saying they had lost their sons. I slept a great deal. Let them go and find their sons. It was like the special pin for my nappies which my mother or some other hoverer dedicated to my care was always losing. These careless women in black lost their husbands and their brothers. Then they came to visit my mother and clucked and crowded over my cradle. I was not amused.

"Babies never really smile till they're three months old", said my mother. "They're not supposed to smile till they're three months old."

My brother, aged six, marched up and down with a toy rifle over his shoulder. The grand old Duke of York He had ten thousand men; He marched them up to the top of the hill And he marched them down again.

And when they were up, they were up, And when they were down, they were down, And when they were neither down nor up They were neither up nor down.

"Just listen to him!" "Look at him with his rifle!" I was about 10 days old when Russia stopped fighting.

I tuned in to the Czar, a prisoner, with the rest of his family, since evidently the country had put him off his throne and there had been a revolution not long before I was born. Everyone was talking about it. I tuned in to the Czar. "Nothing would ever induce me to sign the treaty of Brest-Litovsk", he said to his wife. Anyway, nobody had asked him to.

At this point I was sleeping twenty hours a day to get my strength up. And from what I discerned in the other four hours of the day I knew I was going to need it. The Western Front on my frequency was sheer blood, mud, dismembered bodies, blistering crashes, he-

dic flashes of light in the night sky, explosions, total terror. Since it was plain I had been born into a bad moment in the history of the world, the future bothered me, unable as I was to raise my head from the pillow and as yet only twenty inches long. "I truly wish I were a fox or a bird", D. H. Lawrence was writing to somebody. Dreary old creeping Jesus. I fell asleep.

Red sheets of flame shot across the sky. It was March 21, the fiftieth day of my life, and the German Spring Offensive had started before my morning feed. Infinite slaughter. I scowled at the scene, and made an effort to kick out. But the attempt was feeble. Furious, and impatient for some strength, I wailed for my feed. After which I stopped wailing but continued to scowl. The grand old Duke of York He had ten thousand men. I never heard a sillier song. Over in Berlin and Vienna the people were starving, freezing, striking, rioting and yelling in the streets. In London everyone was bustling to work and muttering that it was time the whole damn business was over.

The big people around me bared their teeth; that meant a smile, it meant they were pleased or amused. They spoke of ration cards for meat and sugar and butter.

"Where will it all end?" I went to sleep. I woke and was telling someone to shut up. I switched over to Joseph Conrad who, strangely enough, was saying precisely the same thing. I still didn't think it worth a smile, although it was expected of me any day now. I got on to Turkey. Women draped in black huddled and chattered in their harems; yak-yak-yak. This was boring, so I came back to home base.

In and out came and went the women in British black. My mother's brother, dressed in his uniform, came coughing. He had been poison-gassed in the trenches. "Toute le monde à la bataille!" declaimed Marshal Foch the old swine. He was now Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces. My uncle coughed from deep within his

lungs, never to recover but destined to return to the Front. His brass buttons gleamed in the firelight. I weighed twelve pounds by now; I stretched and kicked for exercise, seeing that I had a lifetime before me, coping with this crowd. I took six feeds a day and kept most of them down by the time the vindictive was sunk in Ostend harbour, on which day I kicked with special vigour in my bath.

In France the conscripted soldiers leaptfrogged over the dead on the advance and littered the fields with limbs and hands, or drowned in the mud. The strongest men on all fronts were dead before I was born. Now the sentries used bodies for barricades and the fighting men were unhealthy from the start. I checked my toes and my fingernails. I was going to need them. The Playboy of the Western World was playing at the Court Theatre in London, but occasionally I beamed over to the House of Commons which made me drop off vently to sleep. Generally, I preferred the Western Front where one got the true state of affairs. It was essential to know the worst, blood and explosions and all, for one had to be prepared, as the boy scouts said. Virginia Woolf yawned and reached for her diary. Really, I preferred the Western Front.

In the fifth month of my life I could raise my head from my pillow and hold it up. I could grasp the objects that were held out to me. Some of these things rattled and squeaked. I gnawed on them to get my teeth started. "She hasn't smiled yet?" said the dreary old aunties. My mother, on the defensive, said I was probably one of those late smilers. On my wavelength Pablo Picasso was getting married and early in that month of July the Silver Wedding of King George V and Queen Mary was celebrated in joyous pomp at St Paul's Cathedral. They drove through the streets of London with their children. Twenty-five years of domestic happiness. A lot of fuss and ceremonial handing over of swords went on at the Guildhall where the King and Queen received a cheque for

£53,000 to dispose of for charity as they thought fit. *Tout le monde à la bataille!* Income tax in England had reached six shillings in the pound. Every one was talking about the Silver Wedding; yak-yak-yak, and ten days later the Czar and his family, now in Siberia, were invited to descend to a little room in the basement. Crack, crack, went the guns; screams and blood all over the place, and that was the end of the Romanoff. I flexed my muscles. "A fine healthy baby", said the doctor, which gave me much satisfaction.

*Tout le monde à la bataille!* That included my grand uncle. My health had improved to the point where I was able to crawl in my ptyphen. Bertrand Russell was still cheerily in prison for writing something seditious about pacifism. Tuning in as usual to the Front Lines I looked as if the Germans were winning all the battles yet losing the war. And so it was. The upper-income people were upset about the income tax at six shillings to the pound. But all women over thirty got the vote. "It seems a long time to wait", said one of my drab old aunts, aged twenty-two. The speeches in the House of Commons always sent me to sleep which was why I missed, at the actual time, a certain oration by Mr Asquith following the armistice on 11 November. Mr Asquith was a greatly esteemed former prime minister later to be an Earl, and had been quoted by Mr Lloyd George, I clearly heard Asquith, in private, refer to Lloyd George as "that damned Welsh goat".

The armistice was signed and I was awake for that. I pushed myself to my feet with the aid of the bars of my cot. My teeth were coming through very nicely in my opinion, and well worth all the trouble I was put up in bringing them forth. I weighed twenty pounds. On all the world's fighting fronts the men killed in action or dead of wounds numbered 8,538,315 and the warriors wounded and maimed were 21,219,452. With these figures in mind I sat up in my high chair and banged my spoon on the table. One of my mother's black-draped friends rected:

*I have a rendezvous with Death At some disputed barricade, When spring comes back with rustling shade And apple blossoms fill the air—*

*I have a rendezvous with Death, Most of the poets, they said, had been killed. The poetry made them dab their eyes with clean white handkerchiefs.*

Next February on my first birthday, there was a birthday-cake with one candle. Lots of children and their elders. The war had been over two months and 21 days. "Why doesn't she smile?" My brother was to blow out the candle. The elders were talking about the war and the political situation. Lloyd George and Asquith, Asquith and Lloyd George. I remembered recently having switched on to Mr Asquith at a private party where he had been drinking a lot. He was playing cards and when he came to cut the cards he tried to cut a large box of matches by mistake. On another occasion I had seen him putting his arm around a lady's shoulder in a Daimler motor car, and generally behaving towards her in a very friendly fashion. Strangely enough she said, "If you don't stop this nonsense immediately I'll order the chauffeur to stop and I'll get out." Mr Asquith replied, "And pray, what reason will you give?" Well anyway it was my feeding time.

The guests arrived for my birthday. It was so sad, said one of the black widows, so sad about Wilfred Owen who was killed so late in the war, and she quoted from a poem of his:

*What passing-bells for these Who die as cattle? Only the monstrous anger of the guns.*

The children were squealing and toddling around. One was sick and another was the floor and stood with his legs apart, gaping at the puddle. All was mapped up. I banged my spoon on the table of my high chair. But I've a rendezvous with Death At midnight in some flaming town;

*When spring trips north again this year, And I to my pledged word am true, I shall not fail that rendezvous.*

More parents and children arrived. One stout man who was warming his behind at the fire, said, "I always think those words of Asquith's after the armistice were so apt."

They brought the cake close to my high chair for me to see, with the candle sizzling and flickering above the pink icing. "A pity she never smiles."

"She'll smile in time", my mother said, obviously upset.

"What Asquith told the House of Commons just after the war", said that stout gentleman with his backside to the fire, "so apt, what Asquith said. He said that the war has cleansed and purged the world, by God! I recall his actual words: 'All things have become new. In this great cleansing and purging it has been the privilege of our country to play her part...'

They did it. I broke into a decided smile and everyone noticed it, convinced that it was provoked by the fact that my brother had blown out the candle on the cake. "She smiled!" my mother exclaimed. And everyone was clucking away about how I was smiling. For good measure I crawled like a demented raven. "My baby's smiling!" said my mother. "It was the cradle on her case," they said.

The cake he damned. Since that time I have grown to smile quite naturally, like any other baby and house-trained person, but when I really mean a core, then to all intents and purposes it comes in response to the words uttered in the House of Commons after the First World War by the distinguished, the immaculately dressed and the late Mr Asquith.

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SCHOLARSHIP**

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
EXECUTIVE**

**JOHN'S SMITHSONIAN**

Free for Special  
5 December at 6:30  
**SINGERS**

**MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

of 1930  
of children  
January 10  
of the  
of the

For a chamber music choice to vacillate again. Mozart's piano and violin sonata recordings, now completed by Haebler and Szczyngon and Philips, are a strong competitor; a fascinating dark horse is the pair of Berwald piano quintets recorded by Vienna Octet players for Decca; but perhaps the prewar Busch Quartet Beethoven recordings should be reckoned the winners. I have yet to hear the newest of them, Op 130, on CBS, but the World Record



## Good Food Guide Firmly French

People might think twice before opening a French restaurant in London, even if they were French. Except for the price of butter, there is little enough to encourage them, and for every customer who really understands their style of cooking and how French meals became what they are, there are half a dozen who will grumble because there is no gravy or not enough sauce, or because there is no trolley of gaudy restaurant sweets. But still they come, from the Dorchester or the Ritz, as well as Paris, and lately—as if to emphasize this provinciality, though obedience to economic forces must, of course, be the prime consideration—they have avoided the West End and settled in hitherto neglected suburbs, such as Dulwich, Putney, Islington or Muswell Hill.

Perhaps the bravest of these places, and certainly the least expected, is Bubbs, which is central, but most unfashionably so. The restaurant occupies the premises of a *ci-devant* porter's cafe on the edge of Smithfield Market. Downstairs there is nothing but a counter, a few bentwood chairs and evocative posters advertising *lait stérilisé*; upstairs, there are neatly laid tables, a rough wooden floor, Peter Bubbs, his wife Catherine (who comes from the Dordogne), and their chef M. Bureau. There are also, by now, solid guests sitting at the tables doing themselves well, for in this district, poised between Fleet Street and the City, it ought not to be difficult for a hard-working restaurateur to make a living.

There is temptation for the kind of Frenchman—and there are many in British catering—who abandon everything they have been taught and cook with an eye on the till as soon as they begin to feel that British customers do not understand them. But two separate *Good Food Guide* inspections, several months apart, suggest that the Bubbs are quickly carrying on with their plain good quiches and nicely *baveuse* omelettes, or more elaborate *croquade* de langoustes (£1.95) and *dame de brochet*, as though all the other eating-places in the Farrington Road were out of step, not them.

One of their specialties is *ris de veau aux morilles*: "We tried it with ordinary mushrooms," said Mr Bubbs, lamenting the price of imported dried morels, "but it will not do." A taste of the *ris de veau* sauce proves the point, and some rather heavy *pommes dauphine* almost suggested that he ought to import French potatoes, but that would be going too far. Wines are sensibly chosen, and with a good dry *Kie* to start with, and a smoky *marc de Bourgogne* at the end, it is enough to make a City man lose his head for figures, and a journalist his nose for news.

At Le Mont St Michel, "on the Acton side of Shepherd's Bush Green", the normal advice that it is useless to be in a hurry for a proper French meal is insufficient: think more in terms of an evening devoted to the *Ring*. Until Michel Yuzbek (who comes from Orange) and his Portuguese wife have solved their work-flow problems this white-walled, plant-strewn restaurant will have to be treated very gently, and there are odd lapses from time to time—vinegary mussels in a seafood *crêpe*, and a tepid, poorly sauced steak *Dijon*. Yet the same meal also produced a *coq au vin* that redeemed the dish for an inspector who has had "more rotten ones than I care to remember", and *pommes lyonnaises*, which very few restaurants do well, were also delicious. So were *crêpe à l'orange* and *crème brûlée*—which was still warm: perhaps they started it as we began the meal. But it is hard to be cross with a patron so genuinely hospitable and happy in his work.

There are points of similarity here with another promising place, Cassis in Putney, for although M. Marzola and

M. Lohy formerly worked at Le Garroche, the precision of that admirable restaurant does not seem to have rubbed off on them. Certainly, prices in the new place, coolly furnished in tile and cane, are much lower, and some people report excellent *oeufs Cassis* (poached in a pastry case with shrimp), *escalopines de veau au citron* (£1.85), *filets de sole Canabière*, *petit pot de chocolat*, and even a well-spiced apple pie. But a trial meal which confirmed much of this also yielded badly scamped *pièces de viande* and vegetables that should never have left the kitchen.

At least in Putney there is, so to speak, a built-in clientele for serious French cooking. It is hard to say the same of the Edgeware Road—not for want of potential customers within walking distance, but because gastronomic expectations of this dismal thoroughfare are close to rock-bottom. Hamelton's—whose chef is actually Italian, but he does a *cotelette de veau à la moutarde de Meaux* (£2.50) of which any Frenchman could be proud—caught the eye of a *Guide* man simply because they had put a huge bay tree out on the pavement to be raised on, and were offering during the summer the kind of set lunch (£1.50) that they would have had to cook rather than sell open. Anyway, though sweets were disappointing, places like *crabes frits*, *cotelettes d'agneau* and "sweet and buttery" carrot, swede and parsnip as vegetables, proved that some good can come even of a long wait at the Church Street bus stop.

The chief problem for the would-be consumer of French food in London is, as it always has been, sorting out the genuine from the fake, and this is just as difficult at "bistro" level as it is with expensive, plush-and-linen places. After all, because French is accepted menu language, it needs a keen eye for detail to decide who means it and who does not, and even then it is possible to be mistaken. For instance, the blackboard menu at *Le Mont St Michel*, a cheerfully crowded little place in Muswell Hill Broadway, offered "Le brandysnappe avec sylabub", who was to know that this was a real Frenchman double-bluffing his customers, and that fresh strawberries, *crêpe Grand Marnier*, and even *crème brûlée* would turn out to have authentic if unsophisticated tastes, at a meal price of £4 or so for three courses and a little ordinaire?

In a similar category, *Maison Frog*, though Islington has now discovered it and pressure of diners was great when the place was tested, proved a success with dishes that might well have been disappointing: *coquille aux fruits de mer* (75p) in a good fishy sauce flavoured with nutmeg; *courgettes, maître d'hôtel potatoes*, and chocolate pot (40p), and more like *St Emilion* (chocolate). A regular visitor likes fish soup with croûtons, but advises against meals—"not that they are bad, but they are very, very small". Jugged hare (£1.85), by contrast, is ample.

News of other suburbs will be welcome. M. Salmon, of *Chez François*, has another place in Bush Hill Park, but the other places discussed here seem to be strictly single operations, and are probably the better for it. The incoming Frenchman can still pick his postal district with a pin. After all, it costs the price of a pudding merely to venture on a tube train now, so customers are likely to feel benevolent towards the little place round the corner.

Bubbs, 329 Central Market, EC1. Tel: 01-236 2435. Closed public hols; Sun; Sat. Meals: 12-2.30, 7-10.30. Meal with wine £6.30. Le Mont St Michel, 282 Uxbridge Road, W12. Tel: 01-749 5412. Closed Sun; meals: 12-3; 6-11.30; meal with wine £5.20.

Cassis, 30 Putney High Street, SW15. Tel: 01-788 8668. Closed Sun. Meals 12-2.30, 7-11. A la carte meal £5.25.

Hamelton's, 295 Edgeware Road, W2. Tel: 01-723 1906. Closed Chrs. and Boxing Days. New Year's Day public hols; Mon; Sun. Meals 12-3, 7-11.30. Table d'hôte lunch £1.50. A la carte meal with wine £5.

Chez François, 462 Muswell Hill Broadway, N10. Tel: 01-444 8447. Closed Mon. lunch (except Sun). Meals 12-3, 6-10.30. Meal with wine £4.60. M'sieur Frog, 31a Essex Road, N1. Tel: 01-236 3495. Closed Sun, Mon, lunch. Meals 6-10.30. Meal with wine £4.95.

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Considering the antiquity of golf and the addictive qualities of the sport, it does seem strange that golfing holidays have taken so long to appear on the scene—in an "organized" form, that is—and that the tour operating companies have been so slow to develop that particular aspect of their business. Even today there are a mere half-dozen or so that offer such holidays and only one (Eurogolf, of which more later) that specializes in them.

One of the pleasures of grey December is the study of holiday brochures and their persuasive prose, and the golf arrangements are not out in particularly tempting terms. Sit back and let this example wash over you, as it describes an Italian golf course: "Located about seven miles south of Florence amidst the rolling 'Chianti' hills, you risk intoxication with every breath you take. We suspect that Michelangelo himself must have designed this course, but Constable probably planted the trees when on holiday there." Just the sort of picture to carry in your mind as you squelch out from the clubhouse this weekend, risking rheumatism with every step you take. But that, of course, is the object of such a literary exercise—to tempt you into buying a sporting holiday.

Amid the encircling economic gloom, are such holidays likely to be bought next year? Mr Sidney Perez, director of operations at Thomas Cook, is optimistic. "Judging by the results of our current winter programme of golf holidays, prospects are very encouraging indeed," he told me a few days ago. "And it ties in with the booming pattern which we are getting. People are choosing generally the more expensive hotels and this fits in nicely with the golfing arrangements which are based on four and five star hotels."

Golfers, it appears, do not buy their holidays far in advance, so next February and March should produce evidence to justify Mr Perez's optimism. These holidays are something of a new venture for venerable Thomas Cook, and Mr Perez was careful to point out that they are "proper" golfing holidays, not golf facilities tacked on to a run-of-the-mill inclusive deal. Some tour companies have simply done that in the past, and still doing so, and I suppose such arrangements suit the

One hardly knows how to put this tactfully. In fact, it cannot be put tactfully. In 1934, the 14-year-old Margaret Hookham received a postcard requesting her appearance at rehearsals for the Vic Wells Ballet—she was to be a snowflake in the company's production of *The Nutcracker*. Last month, amid a veritable storm of flowers, Dame Margot Fonteyn, now 56 years old but still looking radiant, concluded her latest New York engagement with the most famous of all her partners—it was a partnership that made them both part of the fabric of dance history—Rudolf Nureyev.

It is 26 years since Fonteyn made her New York debut—she was 30 then, the age at which she once said she would retire. How ballet history would have been changed if she had retired in May of 1949. No Sadler's Wells triumph in New York, none of the incredible excitement of her ever-climaxing career.

It might have been that: it is 1948—after she returned from her guest season with Roland Petit's Ballets de Paris and danced a couple of absolutely dazzling performances in Swan Lake with Michael Somes at Covent Garden—that her career had peaked. It seemed the ultimate achievement. With the possible exception of Alicia Markova, who had returned to London and Covent Garden that same season, with her partner Anton Dolin, Fonteyn had achieved more than any British ballerina could ever have dreamed of. Yet incredibly, it has really been the last 26 years that have really counted, not the first 15. Her career has been incredible simply because it has indeed been incredible, but also because it has been so extended. No ballerina has ever enjoyed such a long and glorious reign.

With the retirement of Galina Ulanova in 1962 at the age of 52, Fonteyn became the undisputed *Prima Ballerina Assoluta* of the whole world. Her only real rivals have been Russia's Maya Plisetskaya, still dancing at 50, and Cuba's Alicia Alonso, still dancing at what the normally impeccably accurate *Friedrich's Ballet-Lexikon* von A-Z, edited by the German critic Horst Koegler, claims is 58. (Miss Alonso herself claims 52.) It is, of course, not merely the longevity of Fonteyn's career that has made it so remarkable—although that has helped—but the really special quality of her achievement. In her career she has been continually outdistancing herself.

It is easy to be better at 40 than at 30—but Fonteyn, quite



Golfing in the Algarve: suffering from lack of tourists.

mildly enthusiastic. The total golfer will not want to be in a minority at the nineteenth hole, however.

In the Cook deals, I could find nothing unique, but in fairness the company does not claim to be providing anything other than well established, high quality hotels in Spain and one—the three star *Ermones Beach*—in Corfu. At the height of next summer, two weeks at the *Ermones Beach* will cost £179, but a fortnight in May or late September may be had for £143.

I mentioned my surprise at the time it has taken for golf holidays to be offered by the travel trade, but such holidays are tied in the main to the comparatively recent development of the golf "complex" and even that has its origins outside the game. What happened in recent years, especially on Spain's Costa del Sol and the Portuguese Algarve, was that land or villas were offered for sale as retirement or holiday homes on good sites, usually overlooking the sea.

A golf course would be laid out as an inducement to potential purchasers, but even when the villas were sold the course would not be fully used. The next logical step was the construction of a good-class hotel and the sale of golf holidays. Developments of this type are among those currently suffering from the lack of tourists in the Algarve.

Good golf holidays are not cheap. A week at La Manga next April costs £34 in the Cook brochure, for example, and Eurogolf's most inexpensive week next summer will cost £106. Yet the Eurogolf managing director, Mr Malcolm Green, shares the optimism of his counterparts in other companies, though conceding that golfers may choose hotels of a lower standard than usual—three star rather than four, for example.

"Given the present trend of the economic situation, I believe that people in the £5,000 to £8,000 a year bracket are going to find it more difficult to have a holiday of the standard they're used to," he

told me. Nonetheless, prospects are far from gloomy and he, too, believes holidaymakers are tending to make their bookings three or four weeks in advance rather than three or four months.

Coincidentally, both Mr Perez and Mr Green worked for Global some years ago, and it was Mr Green who introduced golf holidays to that company, as Mr Perez is now doing at Thomas Cook.

Next year Eurogolf plans to incorporate the use of an Avis car in its golf "packages" to Italy and the Costa del Sol, having realized that almost every client requires independent transport. Among locations dropped from the Eurogolf brochure is La Manga on the Costa Blanca.

"I thought it would be a winner, but it fell flat on its face," Mr Green said. "We tried a new place last summer, Punta Ala in Italy, which wasn't so keen about, and it went tremendously well."

Other new locations in the 1976 brochure will be Corfu, Rhodes and Athens as well as

Bermuda, though Mr Green concedes that long distance golf destinations are more prominently featured in British Airways brochures.

Eurogolf does not plan to produce its literature until after Christmas, but Mr Green promises "the most comprehensive golf brochure ever produced". He, like Mr Perez, is confident that enthusiasts will continue to buy holiday abroad, although the Costa del Sol—the barometer of the golf holiday business in Europe—has not done as well as expected this year. Eurogolf had about 4,500 clients in 1975.

A good golf holiday arrangement will ensure plenty of sightseeing and shopping facilities for non-playing members of the family—"golf widows and orphans"—and this is where the use of a hire car is valuable, to say nothing of a location convenient to some seaside resort. "We take care of your wife while you play a round," is an old sales slogan that never loses its value, and if you are contemplating such a holiday, it is a point to be

borne firmly in mind. I have deliberately recommended hotels, courses, for I know from experience that those hotels offered to the genuine golfer and not packed on to some other arrangement, are of class quality in terms of accommodation and sports facilities. My only "tip" is to be to get the golf brood after Christmas and then all. You can pick up from any travel agent except for that issued by I golf which is not a me company of the Associated British Travel Agents. For brochure, which is due early in January, write to Hendon Way, London, 3111.

My guess is that enthusiasts will continue to such holidays, lowering sights a little as far as standard of hotel is concerned, but responding, as they have, to the challenge of a course. "A golf course is a woman," Mr Green commented. "Each one is the same, but also fascinatingly different."

It is to be hoped that reference will continue to a next summer for holidays—though not ch are good value for money. If you have time and a spare then a self-indulgent post-Christmas present start your golfing year in memorable style. An fixture is a festival of sports tournaments at the four famous courses in Mar Nueva Andalucía, Goudal Atalaya Park and Rio Real. Beginning on January 4 may stay for a week or taking part in competition and social events, with a programme of sightseeing and sports, too.

The festival is organized by Eurogolf who tell me that bookings already reach some 65 per cent are people who have been on previous tournaments—as go recommendation as any, cost of a week's full accommodation at the Anicia Tower hotel is £38, higher charges for other. This festival ends on Feb 16 and offers £400 in p and trophies each week. holiday includes return fl between London and the competition entry fees, gala dinner dances and cocktail parties a week.

John Car

## Clive Barnes/New York Notebook Time to call a halt



Margot Fonteyn: No ballerina has enjoyed such a long and glorious reign.

unbelievably, was actually, even technically, better at 50 than she was at 40. This is the unprecedented aspect of her career. Three years ago—a little more, actually, because it was in the spring of 1972—she danced what was pretty certainly her last *Odette/Odile* in New York City. I wrote at the time: "She is not just the best 52-year-old ballerina in the world, she is still, without qualification, the greatest ballerina in the world." No longer.

Perhaps she should retire. Audiences do not wish her to retire, and they may be right. A little Fonteyn, a little of that mystique, that royal family smile combined with the magic happiness of a tiny girl seeing snowflakes for the first time, can still be irresistible. Yet the time has really come when her closest friends and advisers can only be doing her a service by suggesting that she does not compete with her own memories. This is the cruellest and most damaging competition of all. During this Nureyev season, Fonteyn was beautiful in her new Ashton duet to *Villa Lobos*, which recalled in its plasticity the great Ondine, and her acting, which has never been

more transparently and pathetically felt, still gave something to *Marguerite and Armand*. But she also danced the *Corsaire pas de Deux*.

Please, no more of this. If her friends cannot tell her, her critics must. She should treat her art with more dignity. Erik Bruhn—some 10 years younger than Fonteyn and in quite exceptional physical condition—has taken the decision only to dance roles that he danced in his maturity and youth. In this way he is not setting himself up against his own image of perfection. Margot is fantastic—the ballerina of my youth, the embodiment of my dreams. But I do not wish to remember her in the way she danced the *Corsaire* this past New York season. I do not wish my children to see that. It was not disgraceful—there would have been a lot of crazy grandeur in that—merely distasteful. Now, to happier matters—what is new in New York, or rather what is new in New York pornography? Do you remember—if you are touching 50, as I am, you probably do—when Jane Russell in *The Outlaw*, a film by Howard Hughes (what ever became of that guy?) was regarded as so sexy that you

would almost be ashamed to be seen going into the movie house? It was called, if memory serves, "torrid". I never really knew what "torrid" meant, but I did, as a young man, learn to confuse it with the cleavage between Miss Russell's opulently ample breasts. Cleavage? What are we talking about? Whatever became of cleavage? Nowadays that is something that can only happen to butchers, but when I was young, it was something terribly exciting. Where today is naughtiness?

At times I feel like Verlaine and his pile of melted snow. What happened to the ex-prize of the *Widmark Theatre*, where, as a boy, I would cheerfully climb over seats to get a closer, but hardly less chaste view, of what was then—sweet innocence—known as feminine pulchritude. One glimpsed it, if one were to be lucky, through undulations of a fan, or feather boa and the like. There were also ladies more or less nude, as long as they were totally stationary, like the figureheads of ships, upon which they were presumably modelled. Britannia still ruled.

Of course, when I was a boy I even found Deanna Durbin sexy—I drew the line at

Jeannette MacDonald, but we all have to make our own standards. What do kids find sexy today? I presume that my moment now my 14-year-old son is going to take me aside and tell me about the birds and the bees, but currently, in New York, what is there that is forbidden? This must have a terrible effect on the proper guilt processes of adolescence.

The newest porno-trend (and I must admit I have not seen all of these films I am writing about)—is too short and, despite the fact that the things that a man can do to a maid are far from limited, even if he enlists the assistance of the butler) is for class. *Exquisite*, *chic-side* porno. *Respectable* porno. The porno you can take your mother-in-law to. Porno that is not merely porno—porno that is art.

In London you have no idea, because you do not have hard-core porno on public view. This is not particularly surprising, see one brief encounter and you have virtually seen them all—but it is a fact of life. The New York newspapers make millions of dollars a year from porno movie business. And why New York is not cleaned up you won't hear this assessment

from many people—a liberalist is quite accurate. It never hurts, Copenhagen or A dam either, and we have Empire State Building to squall. No more. Porno is now beautifully photographed and is in some of our most beautiful. It is no sufficient that some of best friends are watching movies—my God, not some of our best friends supporting in them. Not—no, no—it could have been. There was anything perverted about porno. In porno movies jokes have a habit of home to roost.

Porno-chic is a moderately new on the scene. It probably started with *Exhibition*, with *The Story of the Vice* (where they do curious with leather shackles, the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan and have the ultimate lesbianism whereby a seduces her daughter). *Stories of Love*—the point of porno's new respectability was this during the fall of the Roman Empire.



1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1990, 27, 1, 1-14.



## Books and a bookman who rarely reads them

Charles W. Traylen, of Guildford, was 70 on November 15. Now there is a name to conjure with in the bibliomane world of antiquarian books. He is the grand old bookman with the Midas touch for incunabula, illuminated manuscripts, illustrated books, and indeed any old books that are going. He has been 50 years in the trade, and has progressed from nothing to the very top.



Mr Charles Traylen: A Midas touch.

His Tudor shop off Guildford High Street stands on the foundations of King John's castle and has a fine Georgian street front. Its 21 rambling, head-cracking timbered rooms are furnished wall-to-wall with stacks of a hundred thousand books in the antique dress of their centuries. His shelves, where judges on circuit used to robe themselves, has a cathedral air of reverence, antiquity, and riches.

Mr Traylen has spent his life in the company of the works of the wisest and wittiest minds of the past centuries. His subterranean strong-room is filled with wealth beyond the dreams of bibliomania: a couple of centuries, are first editions of Milton, fifteenth-century Books of Days, King Charles I's travelling library. Upstairs the bargain shelves still offer trashy old period novels at a few pence for a lucky dip, while next door exquisite Audobon's birds rub shoulders with Nonesuch Dickens too good to read.

The first symptom of the disease called book-collecting is a lust for books in their own right, as objects to possess, regardless of their content. Possession becomes a substitute for reading. Mr Traylen, naturally, has the disease at an advanced and incurable stage. Like other bookmen he can hardly bear anybody to touch his darlings, still less to open or read them.

He has had little time for reading in his busy life, except reference books, trade publications, and other men's booklists. In any spare time before sleep he reads Sapper, Ian Fleming, and similar undemanding adventure fiction. "Not Agatha Christie, she's too complicated; I lose the thread between sessions." At present he is working his way through *The Godfather*.

It is a high paradox that the master breeder and feeder of bookworms should care so little for reading; that he should know more about the value and provenance of books than most men in the world; and less about their actual contents. Perhaps it is due to no more surprising than finding a Grand Eunuch in charge of a vast and spectacular harem.

Charles Traylen was born in Cambridge. After school, aged 13, he started work as a delivery boy for the Co-op bakery at half-a-crown a week. When he was 16 his mother found him a job as assistant in a bookshop at five bob a week. The extent of his reading for pleasure was still humdrum, but he was quick to pick up an extrinsic knowledge of the exterior of classical texts, reference books, and all the other traffic of a university bookshop.

In 1933 he moved to Guildford as manager of Thorpe's established antiquarian bookshop. He foresaw a golden future for illustrated books before most people; and he shocked conventional members of the trade by quoting the prices he was prepared to pay for "Desiderata", books he wanted to get his hands on, in advertisements in the *Times*. The book trade is still prudishly coy about naming prices publicly, for reasons both of tax and of general foxiness. Mr

Traylen fell out with Thorpe's partly because he paid what was considered in 1945 the outrageously high price of £75 for the six volumes of Coult's *Hummingbirds*. He sold the set within the week for £125; today it is worth many thousands.

So Mr Traylen set up shop on his own, with a dozen shelves of books, a mortgage, and a young child. On his first solo Monday he spent his remaining bank balance paying the top price of the day at Sotheby's: £105 for a lovely set of Dickens. "I was putting my children's future on my shelf," he said. He sold the £150, without even having to take it back to Guildford. And since then he has not looked back.

His association blackballed him as a piratical renegade for a couple of years, so he set up as a publisher to produce his own trade paper and illustrated books, with predictably instantaneous success.

He still runs his business, sitting at Dickens's writing desk, on his thrifty original principle of selling 10 books at 5p to buy one book for 50s, and so on up the bookshelf. He still plays cricket as captain of the antiquarian booksellers against "the bibliomites", their assistants. And a quiet gleam of triumph comes into his eyes when he tells tales of famous coups with first editions.

For instance, in the 1950s he paid £2,800 for a set of Audobon in a folded state, and sold it for almost £5,000 before it left the auction room. A man walked into his shop one day with an unidentified rolled up parchment. Mr Traylen quickly gave him £25 for it. The parchment turned out to be the original charter of North Carolina, which he sold to the state archives in Raleigh for £2,500. Today it must be worth ten times that.

Mr Traylen spent five years tracking down the original vendor to give him £500. He admits his weakness ruefully, as if he knows he was a sentimental fool to do so, breaking the first rule of all true book-sellers: Never give a book-seller an extra break.

So what makes the king of the fine book trade tick? Charles Traylen grins mischievously at the naive questions of idiot outsiders, and explains: "I like everything beautiful: beautiful women, beautiful books, and beautiful possessions. There is a joy and pride in being the only book-seller in England who owns two Castons."

Are there any treasures among his children so precious to him that he could not bear to sell them? "I'd sell them all tomorrow; and use the money to buy more and better books."

Philip Howard

## Three men in a boat, or what happened to the other six Cambridge 'heavies'

### Sportsview

day under a new name—Lady Margaret—using blood red blades in eternal memory of their sanguinary exploit.

The bump supper is the high mass of the Cambridge rowing men; a night of sumptuous self-indulgence after the last day of the bumping races when the rigours of training can finally be jettisoned. These occasions are the inevitable prelude to an outbreak of riotous and raucous behaviour. In 1892, six of the first May boat were sent down in consequence of their post-supper celebrations. In those days, it was customary for crews to process along the Banks in flower-bedecked eight as the final ceremony of the May races. Lady Margaret appeared with a cox, two oarsmen and six placards reading "Sent Down" in the places of the rascals and a notice board in the stern announcing the names of the disciplinary dons responsible for their removal.

The published two-volume history of the club records its members' hand-based enormities with almost as much care as their exploits on the water.

In 1954, members of Lady Margaret's arch rivals, First and Third Trinity, wrecked the rooms of two LMBC men on the eve of the May bump supper. In the early hours of the following morning, 15 Lady Margaret men broke into Trinity, one of them falling through a glass roof, with the intention of wrecking a spot of destruction in retaliation.

"Eventually", the history records, "the task was adequately fulfilled, half the party effecting the actual retribution while the others solemnly drank sherry with the victim". But the fame of Lady Margaret does not rest on such aberrations. Apart from the succession of eminent men it has assisted through the pains of late adolescence—the list includes Samuel Butler, the nineteenth-century novelist and modern (for British heavy metal) the economist Alfred Marshall, Lord Cardon the colonial governor and Sir Hugh Casson the architect—the club has proved extraordinarily successful on the water. This year, Lady Margaret retained its headship of the river and last year furnished the country with three international oarsmen. No fewer than 11 LMBC eights were in evidence on the Cam in the May races.

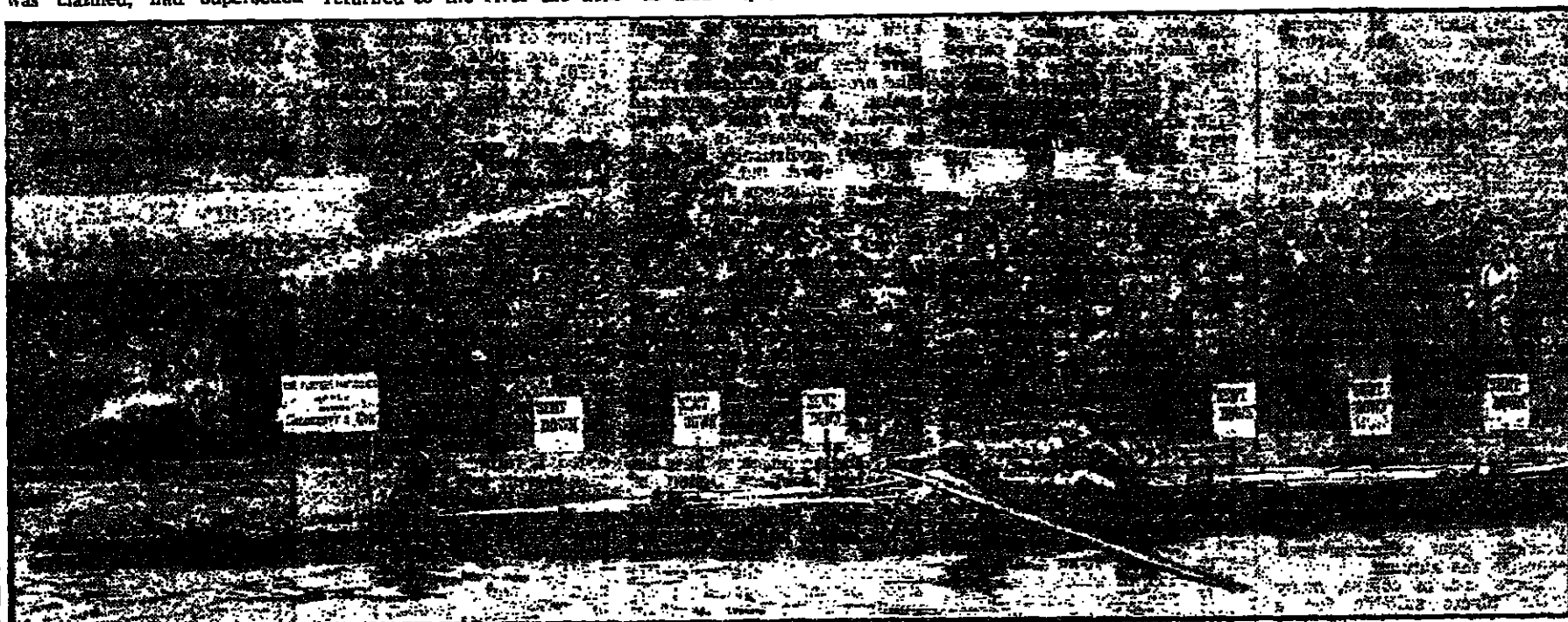
The great period of Lady

Margaret rowing came in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when the club broke the course record at Henley in 1949, won the Grand there in 1951, provided no fewer than six of the 1950 Cambridge Boat Race crew and five of the British eight which carried off a gold medal in the European championships the following year.

Scratch a rowing man and you may find a poet. The architect of those vintage years, Roy Meldrum, once evoked the oarsman's craft in a manner that could not fail to move even the heaviest. He spoke of the "deities of wood and water" that must be invoked by a successful crew.

"The Greeks", said Meldrum, "had a way, whenever beauty was in danger, of turning her into some conventional object, such as a stream or a tree, and thereafter that object was infused with beauty and had to be treated with deference. So it is with rowing. If a crew treats wood and water with the respect supposedly paid to anything more or less human, it will find them very definitely on its side. In fact, it is not too much to say that they will win races for it."

Peter Hennessy



The Lady Margaret May boat in 1892. Reproduced by permission of the Master and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge.

## Why 1976 could see the last Winter Olympics

As the Alpine winter closes in, no one will be scanning the sky more eagerly for signs of snow than the soldiers of the Austrian Army. Last winter's near drought in many areas inspired a manoeuvre almost comparable with the British military tradition of white-washing coal, when snow was brought by the lorryload from the Brenner Pass to a car park near Innsbruck. Hapless conscripts were then ordered to fill their rucksacks, carry the stuff up the mountainside and deposit it where nature had failed to do so.

The purpose of this apparently bizarre exercise was to enable ski racing to take place on what will be the Olympic Games courses at Igls and Axamer-Lizum next February. The combined efforts of the soldiers and a fleet of special tracked vehicles did produce a piste of a sort, but it was brown, mushy and unlovely.

There are other reasons why the organizers are keeping their fingers crossed. As far as skiing, bobsleighing, toboggan-

ing and possibly even skating and ice-hockey are concerned, 1976 could well be the make or break year. The Winter Games have many enemies who feel they are either lack popular appeal or are simply not worth the extra trouble, time and expense.

They have been under something of a cloud, too, since Mr Avery Brundage, the former President of the International Olympic Committee, waged his own bitter and idiosyncratic campaign against the commercialization of the skiing events in particular. Competitors have, to put it mildly, made little effort to hide exactly which manufacturers are paying for their clothing and equipment, and Mr Brundage argued that sponsorship had become so blatant as to render the notion of amateurism meaningless.

To make matters worse, there was the fiasco of Denver, Colorado, which offered to stage the 1976 Games, but ran into a headlong clash with the local environmentalists and was forced to withdraw its invitation. It was hoped then

that Vancouver would step into the breach but when only Lake Placid, New York, came tentatively forward, the IOC plumped for Innsbruck which had, at least shown in 1964 that it could do the job effectively.

It has become clear from this unhappy sequence of events that the nations of the world are not exactly queuing up to play host. The same may well go for the Summer Games after Montreal's well-publicized criticisms, but that is another matter. What does seem likely is that the Winter Games, if they survive at all, will in future alternate between a handful of cities which have shown that they have the resources, the facilities and the support of the local population.

The question of facilities is not as simple as it might seem. Innsbruck and its surrounding resorts are relatively low-lying by Alpine standards, hence the need for the snow-shedding operation.

The obvious answer might seem to select an established holiday resort at an altitude of 6,000ft or higher, where rea-

sonable snow conditions could be more or less guaranteed. But even the largest resorts could not be expected to provide the necessary accommodation for thousands of competitors and spectators.

Innsbruck boasts that it can accommodate 150,000 people within a one-hour drive, and is expecting record attendances. Within less than a year the estimated cost of the operation escalated from 600m schilling (approximately £15m) to 750m schilling (£18m) in December 1973. As that time the estimate was split roughly equally between new roads, the Olympic village, and the sports facilities themselves, which include a brand new combined run for the bobsleigh and toboggan events—artificially refrigerated in case the weather again proves uncooperative—and a new cable car at Axamer-Lizum.

Officials cheerfully reckon that, thanks to inflation, the eventual cost will be at least double the original estimate of some 2,000m schilling (£30m). But they claim that there is

little local resentment. The road improvements would have been necessary anyway, and the Olympic village will, as in 1964, make a useful substructure for contribution to easing an acute housing problem.

On the whole it seems a comfortable enough arrangement for a connected city which wears its history lightly. Nearly 500 years ago it was briefly the Hapsburg capital and, should the ghost of Maximilian choose to pay a return visit, he will have the Vienna Philharmonic to provide alternative entertainment to the excitement of the blank previous Bergisel stadium, where the ski-jumpers will soar nearly 90 metres over the heads of up to 60,000 spectators.

Inspecting the jump, we noticed a large red stain at about the point where the contestants return to earth. It was just paint to signify a distance mark, our Austrian guide observed. The man from the Daily Mail insisted it was blood.

John Young

## Can the Tories avoid financial ruin?

### George Hutchinson

Today we might return to the vexatious subject of money. Everyone is afflicted by its degrading value in an era of such crushing inflation. With few exceptions we are increasingly hard up. This is true of organizations no less than individuals, and actually so of the parties in Parliament. All are in urgent need of funds. Labour, Liberal, Conservative and nationalist alike. The same could no doubt be claimed (but might not be correct) for the commonwealth, the international Socialists and other agencies of the extreme left; these are alien to most of the electorate, however, and I am thinking only of the parties represented in Westminster.

About them and their resources there is no mystery. They are short of income. Unless their revenues can be improved, all are bound to suffer a loss of organizational capacity. With its trade union alliance and the political levy, the Labour Party is least at risk. The Liberals, with a relatively small organization and fewer existing commitments, may be able to survive more intact but without the expansion for which they had reasonably hoped; likewise the Scottish and Welsh nationalists. The Conservatives, with an elaborate mechanism to maintain, are threatened as never before: continuing solvency can no longer be taken for granted at 32 Smith Square.

Next week, the Tory chairman, Lord Thorneycroft, escorted by his deputies, Mr Angus Maude and Mr William Clark, and by the principal party treasurer, was telling me before the Brighton appearance that he will be pronouncing on this melancholy turn of fortune. The Labour Lord Houghton, you may remember, is presiding over a committee charged to "consider whether, in the interests

of parliamentary democracy, provision should be made from public funds to assist political parties in carrying out their functions outside Parliament, and to make recommendations as to the scope of political activities to which any such provision should relate and the method of its allocation." In other words, should political parties have Exchequer subsidies far exceeding the present limited grants towards the cost of their respective parliamentary representation? Should the overall general expenditure be supported from taxation, either entirely or in part? Taking the Conservative budget at £2m a year and allowing Labour a similar sum, with proportionate sums for the Liberal and nationalist parties, the annual public outlay might be put at £5m. Could such a departure from past practice be justified?

So far as any such thing as a whole party, the Conservatives are against the proposition, while Labour and the Liberals, not to mention the nationalists, find it attractive. But how much they dislike it, the Tories may have to fall in with the principle before they are through. They may have no alternative.

Contrary to widespread belief (or myth), they can no longer look to industry for their salvation. As Mr Alistair MacAlpine, the newest, youngest and least conventional of the party treasurer, was telling me the other day, "Industrial contributions are now 25 per cent in real terms of what they were in 1949". Although erratic in its movements (sometimes up, sometimes down) the trend has been one of decline. Nor is this surpris-

ing, as industry has passed more and more into the hands of public companies and salaried managers, as distinct from the old individual proprietors, and is increasingly subject to nationalization and other forms of state control.

A wealth tax, if it came about, would complete the process. Alistair MacAlpine, a mere 33, is deeply conscious of his new responsibilities as junior partner to Lord Chelmer and Lord Ashdown in the party treasury. If anything, they are probably greater than those of his elders, since much is expected of his fresh approach. He was appointed by Mrs Thatcher on her own judgment, not as somebody else's best, and belongs (I need hardly say) to the building dynasty.

A range of artistic interests rather set him apart. Among many other things he is vice-chairman of the Contemporary Arts Society, a trustee of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and a member of the Council of the Royal Court Theatre. He is not inexperienced in fund raising, nor is he wedded to traditional methods; moreover, he has time; hence the hopes rested in him.

Meanwhile Lord Thorneycroft will be expounding the Conservative Party's official views to the Houghton Committee on Monday. Many others have already given evidence, among them Aims for Freedom and Enterprise, an old friend of Aims, and industry is now called. Mr Michael Irens, the director, spoke for Aims and had a number of points to make. These were some of them:

"Many workers make contri-

butions to the Labour Party through the trade union, because of fear rather than willingness... Our recommendation is that the political levy should be abolished—or if it is kept in existence should be returned to contracting out. Individuals should, if they wish, recommend in their tax returns that a contribution should go from their tax assessment to parties of their choice."

"At present, hidden subsidies in kind are made to the Labour Party by companies and most nationalized industries collecting the political levy free of charge. It should be compulsory for a charge to be made."

"It is important that directors should take steps to defend the assets and trade of their companies. This may involve making a contribution to a political party. Considerable sums of money are raised for the support of political parties and organizations which have policies opposed to the continuance of private enterprise. If private enterprise were to be denied the right to support parties which they believe would work for their survival, a fundamental principle of freedom would have been breached. We believe that it is right that companies should make it known to shareholders that they are making such a contribution. Shareholders can of course get rid of their shares if they disagree with the company on this. But a worker will very often lose his trade if he decides to leave his union because he disagrees with its political affiliations."

Lord Houghton and Co have plenty to think about before formulating their conclusions. As I have suggested previously, this is properly a subject for a Speaker's Conference.

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## Frustration and the Convention

The setting was typical and un-spectacular; a modern Unionist hall situated in one of the more prosperous suburbs of Belfast, drably decorated in the familiar red, white and blue and selected by Ulster's hard-line loyalist coalition as the venue for its latest crisis rally. A Union Jack was prominent under a cheap photograph of the Queen, and any symbolism intended as the solemn church music faded into the Seekers singing *The Caravan* is over was wasted on the sober-looking Protestants who braved the bitter cold in their hundreds to attend.

After the warm-up speeches, which included an impassioned plea for a Northern Irish Franco, the coalition's affable but undynamic leader, Harry West, treated his audience to an exercise in calculated nostalgia. The period being recalled with emotive and unqualified enthusiasm was the early sixties when the Unionists controlled their own Stormont and "Ulster was on top of the world". It was made abundantly clear that every effort possible would be made in the coming months to return to a similar situation. "It is a tremendous embarrassment to people of my vintage", admitted Mr West, "that in our own day and generation, we have let slip through our fingers what our fathers took 50 years to build up."

For the British Government, more pessimistic than ever about the immediate prospects of any move towards a lasting and workable solution, the meeting came as a salutary reminder of the difficulties it faces now that the experimen-

tal Convention has presented its report. If anything, the proposals pushed through by a Loyalist majority of 42 to 31 are more intransigent than expected, certainly during the first few weeks of Mr Craig's conversion when it seemed that an answer might be in sight. "No one pretended that it would have been easy to carry through", said one official, "but it seemed more honest than now. Obviously an element of wishful thinking was involved."

Now that the report has been received, no great urgency is being shown by the Secretary of State, Mr Rees, to move on to the next stage, which will be a major speech in the Commons outlining the Government's reaction. In spite of pressure from the increasingly unhappy Tory leadership, the announcement will be delayed until January, when the 78 members of the Convention will be summoned back for a brief effort by the British to find the measure of local agreement which has eluded them with such regularity. After that a referendum is planned as a last chance before the return to unconditional direct rule which according to Army intelligence will result in a further escalation of the Provisional IRA's vicious campaign on the English mainland.

In private, few ministers or civil servants are bothering to conceal their covert disappointment with the outcome of the Convention or their contempt for much of its final report. After months of self-enforced restraint on any comment about the behaviour of Ulster politicians, the deep underlying frustration has been demonstrated revealingly in the temper of many recent remarks. "For a start", I was told by one senior member of the Government, "the whole

historical section of the report is crap." Similarly strong sentiments have been expressed about other sections, including those covering law and order and finance, although they have not yet been translated to the Protestant authorities. For the moment, in the interests of temporary harmony, tact has prevailed.

The Government is aware of the difficulties which the Convention faced in trying to draw up a new regional administration in report form without adequate Civil Service help. It has also learnt sufficiently from recent experience in Ulster that ministers must avoid forfeiting sympathy on both sides by any statement of policy in their criticism. So over the next few weeks, the crucial issue of power-sharing between the two communities will be set aside in favour of discussion about the detailed administrative suggestions put forward in the report and now the subject of regular meetings between the politicians and Mr Rees.

Shortly before his confidently predicted replacement in the spring (the second anniversary of his arrival), Mr Rees will endeavour to convince MPs of the common ground shown up by the Convention, particularly the shared antipathy among both Protestant and Roman Catholic representatives for any kind of policy arising from London. Without noticeable optimism, he will then call the Convention together once more using the carrot of devolved government in an attempt to win agreement for a system acceptable to both communities. "The important thing now is how we proceed", explained a senior official, "There are no longer any magical solutions left for Ulster. It is more a question of allowing the realities of the past five years to unfold for themselves."

Christopher Walker

## Learning law from the Scots

When, a few months ago, Home Office Minister raised the possibility of introducing public prosecution into England and Wales, some newspaper headlines suggested, misleadingly, that this might be a sign that the district attorney system in the United States, doubt that the English system is more familiar with the district attorney system, as in countless episodes of *Mason and Ingoldsby*, and of *American "B" men* than with the less well known, though much closer, activities of the Scottish procurator-fiscal, who has recently reached our television screen in the series *Sinclair Lewis*, a sort of legal *D. J. Caseworker*.

Yet if the patchy, fragmentary and often a factory prosecution south of the border is changed, the Scottish system can provide at least some of the answers. For one, it actually works well and is a satisfactory alternative to the system of public prosecution in England. It is not, of course, a system of detail, but one that any responsible person in need of change or reform. This is not, of course, a system of detail, but one that any responsible person in need of change or reform.

The crux of the system is that the police are not responsible, in any way, for the decision to prosecute. The decision to prosecute is made by the procurator-fiscal, who is a public prosecutor, not a police officer. The procurator-fiscal is a legal servant of whom there are 150 in Scotland, but only one in England. The procurator-fiscal is a legal servant of whom there are 150 in Scotland, but only one in England.

He with his deputies is in charge of the investigation of crime in his district. He is responsible to him, not the police, for the decision to prosecute. He is responsible to him, not the police, for the decision to prosecute. He is responsible to him, not the police, for the decision to prosecute.

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1948. I could detail the circumstances but they would probably be more than any of your readers would want to know.

The part of the quote to which you refer is the one which came from Mrs Stengel, who pronounced, when Casey had gone back to baseball after a spell of retirement, that she was happy to have him out of the house again. "I married him," she said, "for better or for worse - but not for lunch."

Yours sincerely,  
JIM BECKER,  
403 Hood House,  
Dolphin Square, SW1  
October 11.





## COURT CIRCULAR

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 12: His Excellency the Hon James Cameron Tudor was received in farewell audience by The Queen this morning and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary to the Republic of Mauritania to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following member of the Embassy who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty: The Right Honourable Sir John Curle, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty in the presence of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

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# Ten years after Vatican II lowered the drawbridge

By Peter Hebblethwaite

Ten years ago on December 3, 1965, the Second Vatican Council ended with a morning ceremony in St Peter's Square. Final messages were dispatched to women, young people, intellectuals, the street and all men of good will. It was as though the arms of Bernini's colonnade opened up to embrace the whole world. After four laborious and sometimes hard-biting sessions, the Council ended in a blaze of resplendent harmony. All its documents had been approved by immense majorities. There was question here, said Pope Paul, of victors and vanquished. A consensus had been achieved.

It is not easy to summarize the Council's fourteen documents, which make up a thick volume. Yet one can discover an inner logic and say compellingly that the Church first looked at its title deeds (Revelation and papal authority) and then tried to devise a form of worship which expressed the fact that it was a pilgrim community (Liturgy). Then this new self-understanding meant a reappraisal of tasks and roles within the Church (Bishops, Priests, Religious, Laity), and the re-examination of its relationship with other groups (Modern World, Other Christians, Jews, the Non-Christian Religions, and Secular Society). Finally two decrees of uneven quality dealt with Education and the Mass Media ("The Word of God").

But perhaps even more important than the documents themselves was the spirit which animated them. Previous Councils had met to denounce heresy or ward off dangers. Vatican II was different in that its intentions were more positive and pastoral and its mood more optimistic. Not having the polemical concern of the sixteenth-century Council of Trent, it was able to welcome ecumenism as the work of the Holy Spirit—in Christian language the highest level of communion—and to acknowledge its debt to Protestant biblical and theological scholarship. The time had come to extend to the whole Church the best thinking of parts of the Church. Pope John had firmly stated the principle that there should be no condemnations. Dialogue was the order of the day, and dialogue could not begin with fulminations.

Ten years on, it is tempting to draw a contrast between the high hopes of 1965 and the frustration of some experience today. Ecumenism, say the pessimists, is dead. Liturgy, instead of being the joyous and unifying factor that it is meant to be, has become divisive and controversial. The splendid theology of married life as a community of love has been obscured by quarrels about birth-control. The renewal of

priestly and religious life has led to disquiet and departures. The much-praised "openness to the world" has ended in incoherence, confusion, and problems of identity.

It is noteworthy that such lamentations can be heard from both extreme wings of the Church. There are those who deplored the changes and still resent them; they are attacked by those who complain of delay and blocking tactics in their implementation. It is the knowledge of this criticism from both sides which encourages Pope Paul that he is a moderate, strenuously trying to hold the middle ground, which is in fact where the vast mass of Roman Catholics happen to be.

But they still have to adjust to change, and that can be worrying. The most striking change that has come over the Catholic Church, for the insider as well as the outsider, is that the image of the Church as a fortress in which peace, good order and utter self-confidence reign has given way to that of a people who share the concerns of everyone else and reflect their disagreements. "The Church," noted the Council, "shares in the joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of our time."

Normally it would be surprising to congratulate a human group on acknowledging that it belonged to the human race, but after four centuries of fortress life and superior aloofness, it was a startling admission. With it went the recognition that the Church was in the world in order to learn as well as to teach. This did not please those who pictured the Church as the castigator of the world's evils, looking down on the foundations of the world on the groundings immersed in the mire below.

The two "models" of the Church continue to co-exist and are responsible for much of the post-conciliar malaise. The disputants are literally talking at cross purposes. The Council laid down admirable principles which were resisted by some while others developed and extended them. But it had produced compromise texts and where it could not solve a difficulty, it hopefully set the contrasting positions alongside each other. The result is that the Council texts are capable of different readings.

Thus it is perfectly possible to read the Council as the rejection of Vatican I's intransigent teaching on the power of the papacy. One can quote chapter and paragraph to that effect. But there is another reading equally possible which stresses that the Pope exercises his office of unity in the context of the world's bishops ("collegiality"). If the first reading leads back into the fortress and pulls down the draw-

bridge, the second makes ecumenical progress possible.

There is another reason for the post-conciliar malaise. The Council's applied to the Church's own life, not without difficulty. It was splendid to make full and responsible participation in the work of government, but that could prove embarrassing to the Church's own habits of government which had traditionally prized unquestioning obedience more than participation. The move from autocracy to participation has not been painless. "It takes many to be intelligent," said Cardinal Suenens. And it also takes time. It is not an exaggerated sense of the importance of the present that leads one to say that the Roman Catholic Church has changed more in the last decade than in the previous century. One cannot pre-empt the Holy Spirit and predict the course of the next 10 years. But it is true that the Church has assimilated Vatican II more deeply and learned to travel more lightly, discerning more clearly what is essential to Christian faith and what not, and that in drawing closer to Christ it will draw nearer to other Christians who share the same hope.

Peter Hebblethwaite is the author of *The Runaway Church*, recently published by Collins at £4.50.

Major Richard Deedes, of Shrewsbury, who was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal in 1954 for picking up an armed terrorist while playing in a cricket match at Chingapore, Bengal (exchanged for the George Cross in 1949), left £4,982.

Other estates include (net before duty paid): duty on some estates netted £1,000; Mr. Thomas Cable, of Rye, Hampshire, £175,573; Constable, Mr. John Hugh, of Kew, Surrey, £13,534; Mr. Robert Ian, of Gosdoling, Suffolk, £105,224; Mr. Robert Ian, of Gosdoling, Suffolk, £270,132.

## Latest wills

Major Richard Deedes, of Shrewsbury, who was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal in 1954 for picking up an armed terrorist while playing in a cricket match at Chingapore, Bengal (exchanged for the George Cross in 1949), left £4,982.

## Service dinners

May 1937 Entry RNC Dartmouth. The May 1937 Entry RNC Dartmouth held a reunion on board HMS *Calcutta* (Capt. J. C. Johnston, RN) at Portsmouth last night.

## RAF Kai Tak

The Commander, RAF Hong Kong, Air Commodore B. G. Frow, and members of the staff of the RAF Kai Tak, gave a dinner yesterday evening to commemorate the last operational flight of the RAF's Britannia aircraft.

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## OBITUARY

### MOST REV DAVID MATHEW

#### An ecclesiastic of varied talents

The Most Rev David Mathew, FBA, FRSL, Archbishop of the Anglican Church in the Province of the Southern Cross, died on December 12, 1975, at the age of 73, after a long and difficult battle with cancer.

Born on January 15, 1902, his father was a son of Lord Justice Mathew, his mother a daughter of Sir John Woodroffe. But David Mathew was educated not for the law but at Osborne and Dartmouth for the Royal Navy, and served as a midshipman in the second year of the 1914-15 War. He never lost his affection for the Navy, but it was not his calling, and after a year in which he had made his way to Balliol College, Oxford, took a first in History, and continued as a research scholar before going to the Beda College in Rome. He was ordained in 1929. His priestly life as a curate at Corby Cathedral, but because of his academic attainments, he was soon moved to London as chaplain to the Catholics of the University of London. It was here that he produced his first serious book on the Celtic peoples and Renaissance Europe. He was breaking new ground, where his special strength, a genealogical interest in families, was continuity and their ramifications, found plenty of scope. His younger brother and lifelong intimate, the Dominican, Father Gervase Mathew, was also a scholar, and the brothers produced a study of the Celtic peoples and Renaissance Europe. He was breaking new ground, where his special strength, a genealogical interest in families, was continuity and their ramifications, found plenty of scope. His younger brother and lifelong intimate, the Dominican, Father Gervase Mathew, was also a scholar, and the brothers produced a study of the Celtic peoples and Renaissance Europe. He was breaking new ground, where his special strength, a genealogical interest in families, was continuity and their ramifications, found plenty of scope. His younger brother and lifelong intimate, the Dominican, Father Gervase Mathew, was also a scholar, and the brothers produced a study of the Celtic peoples and Renaissance Europe. 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## MALTA

a Special Report

## Mintoff progress a little too fiery

by a Special Correspondent

he social and economic upheaval experienced in Malta since the Labour Party was returned to power in June, 1971, should cause swing away from it, however small, when the election goes to the polls in coming year.

Most Maltese are by nature shy and though not averse to progress, especially when it improves their living conditions, they do not take easily to progress that seems to alter dramatically their way of going out things and moves by the hand. Such, however, is Mr Mintoff's manner of operating.

The Nationalist opposition, to claim to have all the powers, are not the Prime Minister's worst enemies. His own worst enemy, but those who do not support Mr Mintoff's Government, as well as some of its swiftest supporters, object perhaps more than to his policy, is the rough-and-ready manner in which it is carried out.

## Annual increase in wages

This irritating official shaviness is not condoned in insubordinate quarters. Nor the irritation assuaged by official achievement. The salary prefers the village very, although he hardly seems his mouth in Parliament, and is unimpressed by irritations with Chinese and Arabs, even though the Chinese may be building a dock to take 300,000-ton tankers and the Arabs came indomitably to Mr Mintoff's aid in the hour of the land's need.

On the social side, Malta in the past year has seen considerable improvement, though not as marked as it could seem at first sight. There has been the government-imposed annual increase in wages in all sectors to help to offset the increase in the cost of living about, however, being proportionate to it. Government

has also imposed by legislation a flat rate Christmas bonus of £250 (about £29) for all employees.

Moreover, the administration has introduced allowances for the first three children in each family and increased social benefits for the aged, while such essential commodities as bread and kerosene—which most of the lower class use for cooking and the middle class for heating—are still heavily subsidized.

## Search for oil is frustrating

The Ministry of Public Building and Works has been particularly busy in putting up blocks of flats and housing estates in various parts of the island, which have provided accommodation for families evacuated as a result of slum clearance and the building of new roads.

What the Government has long been hoping for, but what has until now caused only frustration, is striking oil off the island's shores. International concerns have been contracted and have ceased operations after laborious preliminary exploration. Others, among them Texaco, were subsequently given a licence but have failed to strike oil. The search for oil, which would solve all the economic problems of its 300,000 inhabitants for many years.

The dockyard, Malta's biggest employer, is being run by the workers but no balance sheets have been produced. Yet a dividend of £10 is being paid out of a profit said to be £400,000.

Tourism has had a successful run but essential services were not sufficiently developed to meet a quality market. To cater for the record number of arrivals, special provision had to be made for holiday flats, guest houses and small family hotels.

The Labour Government has put the ecclesiastical



Malta's chief town and port, Valletta. Its grand harbour is very deep and large vessels can anchor alongside the shore.

establishment in its place. The aura of grandeur built up over the centuries by the church in temporal affairs has been greatly dimmed; the privilege fori, which precluded court action against the church authority, terminated; and profits of dubious spiritual origin, taxed. Homosexuality between consenting adults in private has been legalized, and civil marriage introduced.

Although the Government, and this is again typical of "fiery Dom", might have been overzealous in some of its reforms, the legislation concerning the church could be amended by the present or a future government. On the whole, however, the

people have accepted the reforms.

Even the opponents of the Labour Party must admit that it is not in power at an ideal moment as far as the world economy is concerned. The recession will seriously affect Malta's young industries, which are striving to build exports.

But there is something in what Opposition Nationalist speakers say, that the recession would not have hit Mr Mintoff as badly had he gone on to build on the foundations laid by their successive administrations rather than doing away with the incentives they had offered to industrialists intending to set up in Malta.

The Government's answer is that hundreds of thousands of pounds had gone to speculators who were only out to make money quickly and whose enterprises were prone to bankruptcy.

The responsibility for Malta's high unemployment cannot be placed at the Government's door. When the present financial agreement with Britain and Nato was reached in March, 1972, it was stipulated that Britain would go on using the island's base facilities until 1979. It was also planned that as employment with the Services gradually declined, the men who lost their jobs would be absorbed by the developing industries.

No allowance was made for possible recessions, and

emergency labour corps were hurriedly set up to provide occupation as the factories, rather than expanding, started laying off men. People wonder what will happen when the Services' establishments finally close and the last of the British sailors and soldiers leave.

Prospects are at best uncertain. Imaginative projects such as the Red China Dock and the expansion of Luqa airport are aimed at a long-term boom in the economy, but shipping and air travel to Malta are not controlled by the Maltese alone.

Government and people continue to hope for the best. Malta has surmounted many formidable obstacles in its long and chequered history.

## British connexion still fruitful

by George Sammut

The Government of a miniature state strategically situated cannot afford to make enemies, especially when it is unarmed and poor in resources and must therefore depend on others for its economic well-being. This is not to say that, as a result, the Government of Malta adopts a servile attitude to anyone anywhere—the thought would be anathema to Mr Mintoff—but it could mean that Government does not necessarily consider the people's feelings before entering into foreign relationships, political or economic.

The highlight of the Malta Government's foreign policy is the attainment of peace in Europe and particularly in the Mediterranean. It has kept aloof from military blocks and alliances to the extent of closing its harbours to the fleets of the Soviet Union and the United States. It professes a strictly neutral policy between East and West and asked for, and was granted, admission to the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations.

The island's foreign interests, however, go beyond the Mediterranean and Europe, and its voice is often heard at the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and the International Court of Justice.

It bears emphasizing that Malta's foreign relations are directly connected and go hand in hand with its economic requirements to the extent that one is excused for holding that even the pursuit of peace is also aimed in this direction, because, now that it is no longer a fortress, war could not bring prosperity to the island. It was less than a month ago that the Prime Minister reiterated that there is no justification for a Soviet embassy in Malta because there is still no trade agreement between the two countries.

There are other practical considerations in Malta's foreign relations. The island is linked diplomatically both with Russia and China, Israel and Libya, but China and Libya have come in over the months for unending expressions of gratitude for all they have done to prop up the island's economy and boost

its Government's morale in its hours of national crisis. Therefore, that these two countries, ideological and political rivals can be equally pleasing in Maltese official eyes.

The Chinese are ubiquitous. Their activities range from their supervision of the building of the extensive Red China Dock to the training of Maltese workers in light industries and appearances on television presenting sports equipment to ministers, or engaged in similar friendly gestures. There are more Chinese engaged in diplomatic or other work in Malta than in the case with any other national.

The Libyans, similarly, cannot be missed if only because of their cultural centre that rises with disproportionate signboard in the centre of Valletta, their Arabic lessons on television and the not infrequent visits of Mr Mintoff or other government representatives to their country. More down to earth was a recent loan of 10 veterinary surgeons to the construction and equipment of a dock in the inner harbour port of Marsa.

Italy's presence is also felt, particularly through the military contingent of engineers posted there to train the paramilitary bodies working on the island's infrastructure. Moreover, the extension of Luqa airport, an undertaking of considerable dimension, is being carried out under the supervision of a leading Italian engineer who visits the island regularly.

Over the past few weeks Italy has given a free consignment of £1150,000 worth of wheat and £1130,000 worth of rice which is being distributed to the population on the ration system. Malta's greatest debt of gratitude to the United Kingdom, however, stems from the big contribution that it made to the satisfactory conclusion of the vital and agitated Anglo-Maltese negotiations of 1972. These cordial feelings of friendship were sealed in a most worthy manner by the official visit of President Leone on December 5 and 6, the first by an Italian head of state.

France, which made a friendly gesture not so long ago with 150 francs towards a new telephone exchange, had drawn the Government's wrath through its negative attitude in Brussels towards

a more favourable association of the island with the European Economic Community. But informed sources have recently been quoted as saying that France, which had consistently opposed substantial aid to Malta, had finally agreed to such help.

Anglo-Maltese relations are still in a class of their own. It has been stated officially that the new agreement with Britain "also established Malta's relations with that country on a new footing". Whatever the official style of relations, the link forged between the two peoples over a century and a half of close association and frequent intermarriage, and strengthened by the trials of the Second World War, cannot be discarded overnight.

This staunch attachment continues to bear fruit in times of distress. A case in point earlier this year was when Malta was struck by a crippling foot-and-mouth epidemic, and Britain immediately put at the disposal of Malta's Government a team of 10 veterinary surgeons who worked tirelessly and devotedly to bring the disease under control. Finally, Britain still accounts for most of the tourists spending a holiday in Malta.

What Government calls its policy of mixed economy, its critics describe as undue interference, claiming that the administration, rather than encouraging industrialists, enters into competition with them. Typical of this is the setting up of a government supermarket and a souvenir shop.

Where the Government has taken over in those areas of endeavour which it considers vital. They include banking—the Mid-Med Bank is run jointly by Barclays, the Bank of Valletta, and the Banco di Sicilia, both with a majority government shareholding—broadcasting and wireless telegraphy.

Two other spheres where Mr Mintoff's Government has blazed the trail are Air Malta and Sea Malta, the island's own air and shipping lines. They have yet to make their mark but they have had an encouraging start.

For some this Government is the best by far that Malta has had; for others it is a disaster. One thing is certain: it has done most of what it set out to do.

## Malta. Famed for its hotels that welcome foreigners and its fortresses that kept them out.

If there's one word we Maltese love saying, it's "welcome."

But it hasn't always been that way.

For as you no doubt know, our history is famous for its infamous invasions.

But history is history.

So whereas our ancestors built great fortresses to protect Malta from foreigners, we've built great hotels to welcome them.

And they've come by the score. More and more each year.

With so many other resorts to choose from, one might well ask "why?"

Well.

Maybe it's because Malta isn't, in fact, a resort.

It's a country.

So everything that we have to offer is open to everyone.

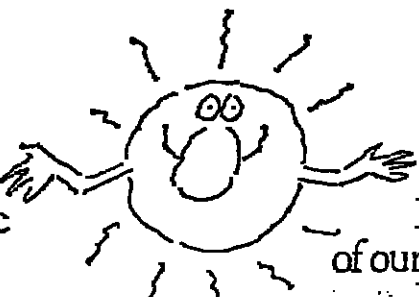
All year round.

Maybe it's because of our unique service:

Our service is our national livelihood.

Which may well explain why we've become famous for the friendly, not to mention excellent, service we give.

All year round.



Maybe it's because of our weather:

Malta gets more

hours of warm sunshine than almost anywhere else in the Mediterranean.

All year round.

Which is why we can promise you a "warm welcome." All year round.

Maybe it's because of our location:

Malta is an island. Correction. Three islands. Malta, Gozo and Comino.

All surrounded by nothing but a sea of pure unadulterated blue Mediterranean.

So we've got sailing, swimming, fishing, skin diving.

All year round.

Maybe it's because of our food:

You can eat a big English breakfast,

a light French lunch,

a long Italian dinner. Our swordfish is possibly the best in the world. And our seafood is plucked fresh from the sea.

All year round.

Maybe it's because of our nightlife:

We have night clubs, discotheques, gambling and festas galore.

All night long.

All year round.

Maybe it's because we make business a pleasure: Malta has modern, luxurious hotels that combine

business with pleasure beautifully; providing every conceivable conference facility for over 2,800 delegates in total.

A conference package includes all meals. Luxurious rooms.

Use of conference halls. Cocktail party.

Sightseeing trips.

And amazingly enough, this all-inclusive package costs approximately the same as an all-inclusive conference package in a top hotel at an English resort.

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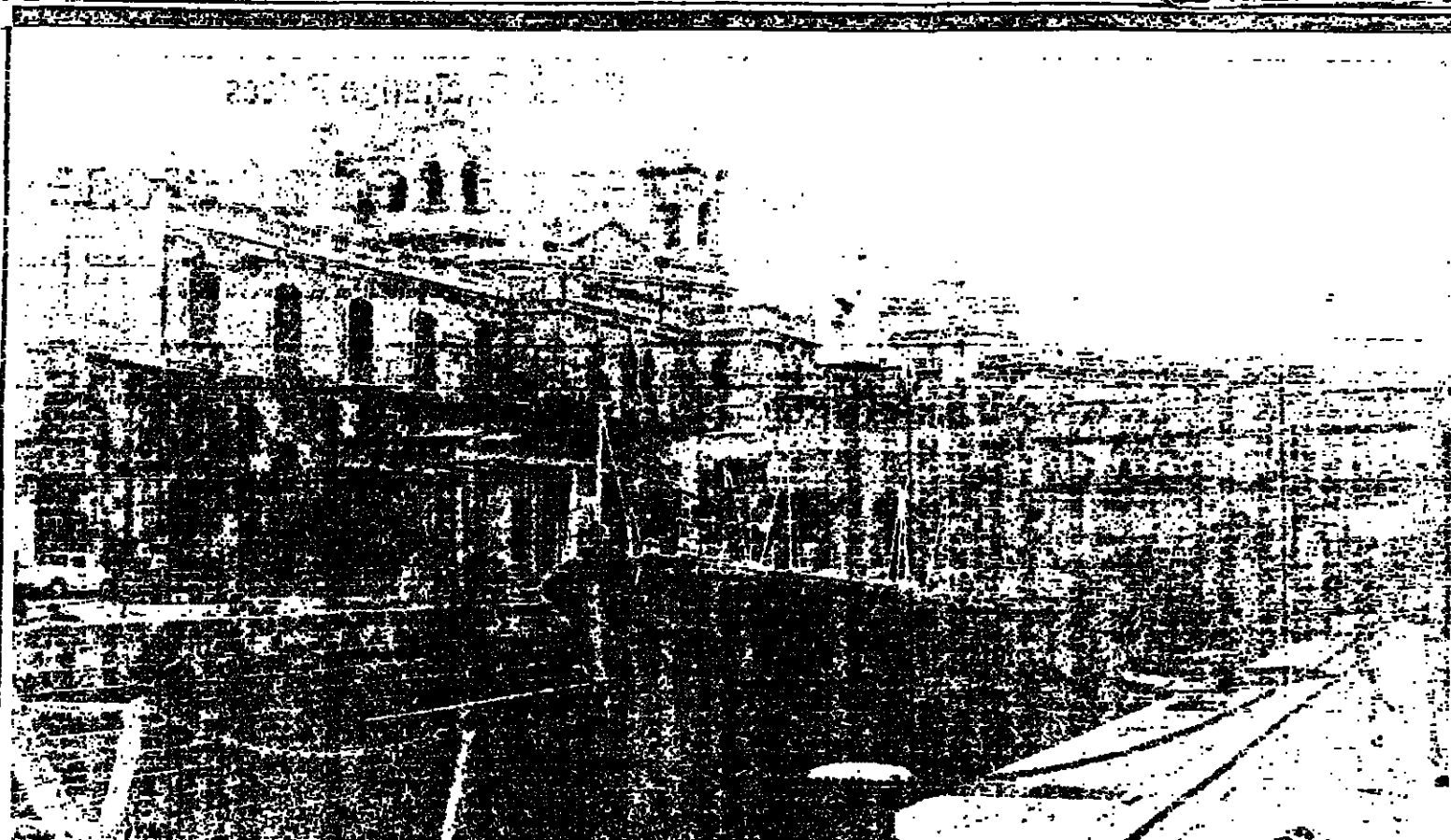
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## Suez plan could be boost for dockyards

by Peter Hill

Mr. Dum Miroff and the workers of the Malta Drydock Corporation (MDC) have been watching the massive reconstruction programme being undertaken along the Suez Canal by the Egyptian Government with more than passing interest. For Malta, Egyptian efforts to restore the canal to its condition before the 1967 closure, supported by huge international assistance, are of considerable importance to the well-being of the island's economy.

Before the closure ship repair facilities at Malta were an attraction for owners as their vessels could undergo surveys or refits before or after passing through the Canal. With the closure of the waterway a large slice of available business was lost to the dockyard company which until recently had been a millstone of gigantic proportions around the necks of successive Maltese governments.

The dockyards, symbolic of Britain in the days of Empire and gunboat diplomacy, have suffered from one crisis to another and instead of being a dynamic force in the development of the island's economy have been a constant drain on the Maltese Exchequer. After being handed over by the Admiralty in 1959 the drydock complex, with considerable launching aid, began a new but unsuccessful era under the direction of private enterprise.

Even while under British management the yard was

unable to produce the hoped-for profits. Well-directed investment plans were frustrated by the lack of funds and the intransigent and oversized labour force of 5,000 or so workers acted as a further constraint. The closure of the Suez Canal with the Six-Day War in 1967 signalled a steeper decline for the fortunes of the drydock complex, the largest single employer of labour on the island.

But with the canal closed and expected to remain so, the MDC, for the past five years a nationalized organization, has been engaged in planning for a more successful future. After Mr. Miroff's election the company became a nationalized undertaking run by a board made up of three government representatives and three union officials elected by the dockyard workers. More significant, however, was the appointment late in 1971 of Herr Otto Fenslau as chairman and managing director for six months on secondment from the West German Government. It was Herr Fenslau who drew up for the corporation the development plan which is now being implemented.

The investment programme (which followed a thorough shake-up of management and worker attitudes and the revamping of management structure) was split into short and long-term proposals involving a total cost of some £22m. About £10m was earmarked for the general improve-

ment of facilities with the major proportion of funds to be spent on the construction of a new, large drydock.

The MDC's complex is impressive, having five drydocks with a capacity for handling ships of up to 100,000 tons deadweight and the sixth dock now under construction designed to accommodate ships of up to 300,000 tons. In addition there are nine berths, cranes capacity of up to 50 tons and a tank-cleaning installation able to handle ships of up to 100,000 tons. The only other ship repair concern on the island competing for similar work to that sought by the MDC is the Malta Ship Repair Yard whose facilities can take ships of up to 4,000 tons.

Construction of the large new repair dock is being carried out with the aid of a £17m loan from China and under the direction of Peking-trained and appointed technicians. The dock is scheduled for completion next year although it is less than half finished at the moment. It seems unlikely that it will be able to take its first ship according to original plans, however, and it is estimated that completion is probably at least 18 months away.

When completed, the dock will be a useful addition to the MDC and will be supported by a 150-ton crane and two 30-ton cranes. The company is also contemplating other modifications to existing dry docks. Certainly

there has been a sharp change in attitudes, which has produced a turn in the fortunes of the MDC in recent years. The losses which had been accumulating over years began to tail off.

Four years ago the company recorded a loss of £133m (about £3.7m), followed by a loss of £11.5m. But in 1973 the company managed to produce a small profit on a turnover of £17m and last year sought to improve still further on a turnover of £10m.

The MDC, which has also been involved in ship construction on a limited scale, clearly is hopeful that the reopened canal will provide the much-needed impetus to its operations—but will it? There is confidence that the company will be able to reassert itself as one of the key ship repair centres in the Mediterranean. But since the canal closure in 1967 the pattern of trade has changed dramatically and competition for the work that will become available has increased considerably. Tankers have traditionally accounted for about 70 per cent of the MDC's normal work load but so far the canal has not been enlarged sufficiently to allow the passage of the larger tankers which now make up the bulk of the world fleet. The waterway has now been restored to its pre-closure state with a draught limitation of 38ft. Before its closure this draught enabled about 60 per cent of the world tanker fleet to pass

through; now the proportion is less than 30 per cent.

That should not be too much of a deterrent, however. With its new facilities Malta could certainly hope to attract the business of the larger tankers on their outward journey to pick up cargoes in the Gulf when the canal is enlarged. But the Maltese are conscious that attracting the business will be tough in view of the chequered history of the MDC and the increased competition which will exist. Ship repairers in Greece, Italy and France—notably around Marseilles—are, like Malta, all expecting increased business as a direct result of the canal's reopening.

At the same time they are looking over their shoulders and attempting to evaluate the impact which the vast new repair yards in the Gulf will have on the traditional ship repairing centres of the Mediterranean countries. On the plans approved by the Egyptian Government the second phase of the canal's development is now under way and will take about three years to complete. This will involve the draught limit being increased to 53ft so that it could accommodate a laden 150,000-tonner while a 300,000-ton vessel could pass through the canal in ballast. For Malta and for the workers at the MDC these developments will continue to be watched carefully and hopes are high that the reopening of the canal heralds a new era of prosperity for the island's economy.

## From St Paul to 'chips with everything'

by John Carter

If legend is to be believed, the world's most prized work of art lies hidden on the island of Malta. It is a portrait of Christ, painted from memory by St Paul on the wall of a cave which gave him shelter. Fast after his escape from the island, he was crucified in AD 60.

"In a place where two seas met": then he swam to shore with his companions. "They knew that the island was called Malta. And the barbarous people showed us no little kindness" (Acts 28: 1, 2).

Tradition has identified Selmunett as the place where the ship ran aground, and close to the northernmost tip of the island is St Paul's grotto, where the Apostle is said to have lived during his three months on the island. The portrait is not on the walls of that cavern, but there are other cave-dwellers perhaps one day a momentous discovery will be made.

Setting aside the legend, there are many discoveries that the tourist may make on Malta, and the island's authorities are working on projects that will enhance the island and attract visitors to its many buried treasures.

Consider, for example, the remarkable Hypogeum—an underground temple constructed in the copper age and the only one of its kind known to exist. Dug from solid rock on three levels and to a depth of 40 feet, it contains a shrine, tombs and other chambers. Built nearly 4,500 years ago, it is of unequalled archaeological importance and was discovered in 1902 at Paola, near Valletta.

Yet the Maltese have been so anxious to avoid "exploiting" the site that few visitors go there and facilities at the temple—explanatory pamphlets, diagrams, and so on—are non-existent. Malta and Gozo offer the curious visitor a score of well-preserved archaeological treasures. At Tarxien the remains of numerous temples dating from the fourth and third millennia B.C. can be found. Some

visitors, it is true, know vaguely of the Knights of St John and will visit the Palace of the Grand Masters, but the general lack of knowledge is clear indication that Malta needs to promote itself more strongly in this respect.

The Government is well aware of the importance of tourism to the economy, for the current seven-year development plan is based firmly on industry, agriculture and tourism and the latter sector is expected to yield £36m this year. All indications are that 1975 will prove a good year for tourism. Up to the end of September the island had received 181,419 visitors from Britain, compared with 169,472 for the whole of 1974.

Giving me these figures, Mr. Louis Mizzi, of the Malta Tourist Office in London, mentioned that about 65 per cent of visitors come from Britain, but that Italy, Germany, Scandinavia and France also provide tourist traffic.

It is part of the Government's strategy to attract visitors from countries other than Britain, he explained. "We plan, generally, to consolidate our position before embarking on new projects, although some are in the pipeline—only for the development of 150 chalets at Mellieha, in conjunction with a Danish trade union."

The island is also quietly pushing itself as a conference centre and several of the bigger hotels have the facilities to cope with sizable meetings. The hope is that such meetings will keep hotels busy in the off-peak periods, but conference bookings are bound to spread throughout the year as organizers realize that a conference can be held in Malta for less than it would cost in Britain.

Not so long ago, Malta was a popular location for retired Britons and a great deal of villa and flats development took place to cope with that demand. Capital requirements were altered—"made more realistic," Mr. Mizzi explained—and although Bri-

tons may still retire to the island the numbers are much lower. But the villas and flats are there, ready to receive self-catering holiday-makers.

That type of holiday is growing in popularity, especially as there is no language barrier. As Malta is small, the location of the villas is not particularly important if the hire of a car is part of the holiday package. A considerable number of holiday-makers based in villas and flats now take advantage of such deals, and in many respects a car is essential to the enjoyment of the island.

A critic levelled at Malta has been that the beaches are littered with rubbish, but the authorities seem determined to make the beaches presentable and clean up the island generally.

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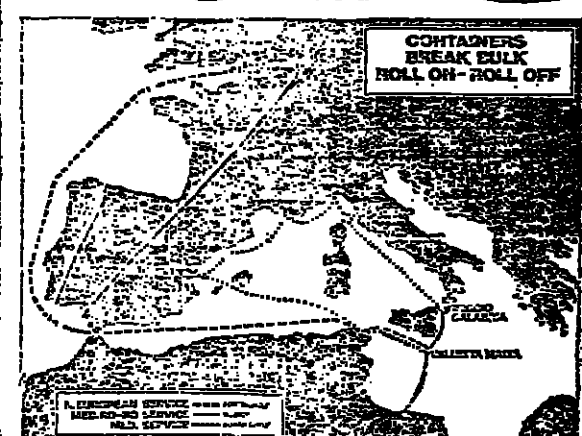
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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Investor's week

## Market anxious • ICH comes out of the cold • brokers

The chances of the FT index reaching 400 by Christmas, as the super-optimists were saying only a fortnight ago, seemed to be receding fast last week.

Selling was very light but the London market resolutely refused to respond either to a partial recovery on Wall Street or the good news from United Kingdom industrial companies.

The prospect of a "package" from the Government before the new year has been so widely discounted that it is hard to see much change in the market when—or if—the news comes. That said, and though the market remains anxious about the Chrysler situation, all the signs are that the undercurrent remains firm.

For the moment, however, major investors are largely occupied with rights issues and shares and deals effectively arranged outside the market place.

Three or so years ago it looked as if it would only be a matter of time before International Computers fell into the hands of Government ownership. Quite simply, people doubted whether the British computer company had the necessary financial muscle to compete alongside the IBMs of this world, let alone pay its shareholders a decent dividend. This view was supported by the fact that the Government, a 10 per cent shareholder in the company, was providing research and development aid of £40m over a five-year period, an effect of which was that ICH had agreed to restrict itself to paying only nominal dividends while this support continued.

This week, however, ICH appeared as both determined and capable of leaving this image of being a struggling but strategically important industry behind. It produced a reasonable set of profit figures for 1974-75, reflecting the success of its new 2900 range of computers—at the pre-tax level it made £16.2m—much more significantly since Government support ends next year, the board said it would be "considering future dividend policy in the light of the performance and needs of the company".

At present it is only paying 1p a share dividend, but it has apparently gone to the trouble of finding out from the Treasury whether it would qualify for a concession under dividend restraint rules, and finds that it would be allowed to return to former gross dividend levels, which were 11.25p a share.

Don't expect ICH to do that immediately, however; the board is conscious of the fact that it needs to retain as much money as possible for future development. Nevertheless, it might be reasonable to suppose that in 1975-76 ICH shareholders will get a bit more income and that all being well the situation will then progressively improve. The shares have done well recently and now stand at 97p, up a further 7p yesterday, but on a two-year view they should continue to be a good investment—at last.

Insurance brokers' shares have performed impressively in relation to the stock market as a whole over the past year, rising as a sector by 200 per cent, or three times, compared with a rise of 136 per cent in the FT All Share Index.

In the past month, however, the progress of the insurance broking sector has slowed to the point where it has marginally underperformed the market as a whole. In part this appears to reflect uncertainties over whether the London insurance market can absorb all the additional business which the brokers are able to produce at present.

One of the main reasons why insurance brokers' shares have been so much in demand during 1975 has been the expectation of a considerable boost to their earnings from North American business. The capacity problems of the American domestic insurance market are by now well known and they have led to a good deal of business coming to London outside of the traditional marine and reinsurance lines.

On the face of it, it may seem attractive to have additional business coming to London. But the very same factors that made United States domestic insurers shy away from some of this business—the need to keep total premium volumes in line with their capital base—also apply to some extent in the London market. And in London they are exacerbated by the fact that the pounds depreciation has the effect of raising the sterling value of dollar business, as well as by general inflation.

The Lloyd's insurance market has a finite capacity to accept higher premium volumes in the sector that they have to be strictly related to members' deposits. The fact that a record 1,100 new members are being admitted in 1976 is a reflection of the attempt to increase capacity without reducing security.

The company market, too, consisting mainly of the big composite insurance groups, has its capacity problems, arising from its own deep involvement in the loss-making United States insurance scene and the need to

increase its own capital base in line with inflation. The recent spate of composite rights issues has highlighted this problem.

All this obviously affects the extent to which brokers are able to place new business in the so-called "British-owned" sector of the London insurance market. There is also a large foreign-owned insurance sector using London as a worldwide marketing centre. The Japanese probably predominate here although the Swiss, German and other nationalities are also well represented, as well, of course, as the United States.

Brokers can obviously place risks with these foreign groups, via their London agents, though there are suggestions that American brokers, for instance, may prefer increasingly to short-circuit the London market and go direct to, say, Tokyo. This would affect the London brokers with whom they have correspondent relationships as well as London underwriters. As one leading London broker admits, the entire London insurance market is a "bit depressed" by capacity problems at present.

For investors the message from all this seems to be that the growth in brokers' earnings may not be quite so dramatic from here on and that those shares which are discounting growth at a high rate could be vulnerable. Highest rated in the sector at present are Sedgwick, Forbes and Minor Holdings, both on p/e ratios of about 20.

On the other hand, quoted brokers such as C. E. Heath, Hogg Robinson, and Leslie & Godwin are much more modestly rated on p/e ratios of around 12 or 13 despite some very impressive growth in the shares this year. Here there appears to be room for taking a longer term view of the growth that the sector as a whole is expected to achieve as insurance capacity gradually improves along with underwriters' capital bases. With most quoted insurance broking situations, income must be sacrificed to the state security expectations though. Matthews, Wrightson yields over 7 per cent.

Unit trusts

## Radical changes at Save & Prosper

Unheralded by publicity, Save and Prosper, Britain's largest unit trust group, is planning to introduce fundamental changes to the organization in the new year.

At the beginning of January, the investment management of the group's £750m of funds—unit trusts, property bonds, pension plans, home income schemes and so on—will be centralized under the Save and Prosper roof.

At the moment, this work is farmed out to two of the group's principal shareholders, merchant bankers Robert Fleming and Edinburgh-based investment managers, Ivory and Sims. Broadly speaking, Fleming manages the S & P funds, Ivory and Sims the Scottish Securities funds while the Ebor funds were shared between the two.

Both managing director David Maitland and investment director Lawrence Banks are quick to refute any suggestion that the changes in any way reflect dissatisfaction with the investment performance of the unit trusts. Although S & P's investment record has sometimes seemed a little lacklustre, the winners have had its share of winners too.

What the changes do represent, however, is the symbolic



Mr Lawrence Banks, investment director, Save and Prosper.

cutting of the apron strings which have so closely tied S & P to its principal shareholders. As Mr Banks said, "We're growing up". Indeed, all of S & P's rivals of note—M & G, Barclays, Unicorn and Slater Walker—have all for a long time ploughed their own investment furrow.

There will be many practical

advantages to S & P in having its own investment management department. In the first place it is, as Mr Banks said, "increasingly illogical" for the group not to manage its own equity investment when it does look after its own property and fixed interest investments, which have begun to grow in volume since the insurance subsidiary added property and deposit bonds to its repertoire.

Logically apart, a second very important consideration is that for the first time, the investment managers of the S & P funds will be reporting back directly to the S & P investment director rather than some one at either Robert Fleming, or Ivory and Sims who in turn would discuss progress with S & P.

In other words, Mr Banks, who has been party to all strategic decisions, will also have greater day-to-day control over the investment operation. This doesn't mean that he's likely to get involved with individual stocks, but the weighting of portfolios and sector trends, for example, will come within his orbit.

The third advantage of the switch in investment management is that it will give the group greater flexibility. Like many other unit trust groups, S & P has too many unit trusts,

29 at the last count. With a centralized investment management department, it will be much easier for the group to rationalize its operations by merging funds, which under the old system might well have had different investment managers.

A fourth feature of the switch is that it will enable S & P to coordinate its marketing operations with investment performance. As a retailer of off-the-shelf financial services, marketing is one of the main springs behind S & P, as is its investment operation. Both Mr Maitland and Mr Banks feel strongly that having these two divisions working as part of the same team will be a positive advantage.

An intangible benefit that could materialize is an increase in group identity. This is, oddly enough, not particularly a problem for the general public, but is relevant internally and could also improve the group's relationship with stockbrokers.

And last, but not least, there will be the financial benefits of setting up shop on its own as investment managers. The old investment management contracts with Robert Fleming and Ivory and Sims have been replaced by investment research contracts—"it would be grossly inefficient for us to duplicate those skills," said Mr Banks—

which will ultimately result in a six-figure saving for S & P.

Initially Mr Banks will be working with a team of 10 mainly on secondment from Robert Fleming. This will keep some continuity and also enable the group to get to grips with investment management, not manpower management, from the start.

Of course, the question which is bound to arise following these developments, is how much further can S & P's independence movement be taken. It has taken a long time for S & P to secure a measure of freedom in respect of investment management and, locking behind the scenes, it seems likely that neither Robert Fleming nor Ivory and Sims gave in without a fight.

But having achieved this investment management break from two of the principal shareholders—Barings Brothers, the European fund—will the directors of S & P ultimately wish to go much further and emerge as a fully independent company, presumably through a stock market flotation? At this stage it is no more than an interesting thought, but one day, who knows...?

Margaret Stone

Motor insurance

## Relating risks—and terms—to special cases

From the public, the cry is for greater simplification in motor insurance. It is continually pointed out that the calculation of premiums, excesses, and the like is becoming increasingly complicated, and that the administrative work involved, in the long run, has to be paid for by motorists.

On the other hand, the insurers are simply trying to relate the premium to the actual risk of accident. There are plenty of factors to be taken into account—such as the type of car, where it is garaged, one's occupation, and so on. There is also the simple point that some cars are on the roads more than others, and thus are more exposed to an accident.

The question of exposure does not seem to have been given sufficient prominence by many insurers in their premium calculations. But it is important. After all, from an insurance company's point of view, even if it insures a man who is never likely to be responsible for an accident, the further he drives, the more likely it is that he will be involved in an accident.

And, under the knock-for-knock agreement between insurers, the careful driver's insurance company will have to pay for the cost of repairing his car—even though he was in no way to blame.

Some insurers do not like taking on elderly motorists, despite the fact that over 17 per cent of car owners with comprehensive cover are over the age of 60, and most people in that age group have many years of driving experience behind them.

That, however, is not a universal view. Some insurers, for instance, quote particularly attractive terms for the over-

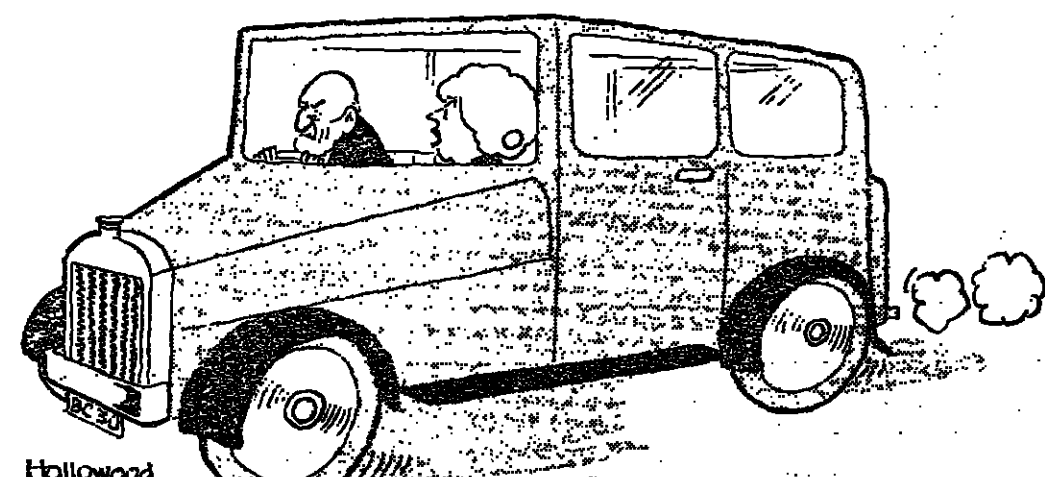
sixties. As an example, Excess General Insurance has seven different age categories for premium purposes; and the over-sixties are the most favourably rated of all.

While not wishing in any way to be ungrateful towards the older generation of motorists, I must add that this special treatment is not provided because they are considered to be particularly good drivers, even though, of course, there are plenty of people in that age range who have managed to steer clear of accidents throughout their motoring careers.

The main reason for this preferential treatment is simply because their mileage is much lower than that of most younger drivers. As they are on the road less (quite apart from the fact that if retired, for example, they can decide not to go out if motoring conditions are poor), naturally, there is less chance of an accident.

It is possible to use the same argument with women drivers. Although the insurance market as a whole does not differentiate between the sexes in compiling its statistics, there are good grounds for believing that a car driven solely by a woman will have better than average claims experience. This is simply because, in two-car families, the wife is confined mainly to local journeys connected with shopping, ferrying the children to and from school, and other domestic affairs.

While one or two insurers do offer special terms for women, this can lead to trouble—quite apart from the accusation of sex discrimination. After all, in many cases, a woman may not want the



... who have managed to steer clear of accidents throughout their motoring careers.

driving restricted to herself; but, once a man is allowed to drive, the premium concession is open to abuse.

At present, insurance rates are so competitive that no company can afford to cut premiums in one direction without increasing them elsewhere. And so the Excess, while favourably disposed towards the elderly, is an expensive market for the young driver.

It is aiming to be fair, and feels that many companies, although discriminating quite heavily against the younger drivers, are still not being harsh enough and that it is the older drivers who are bearing part of the cost.

One theory which has been propounded by some motor insurers is that the young should be subsidized so that they can get on the road, bearing in mind that, in years to come, when they are earning more, they will be expected to subsidize the next generation of young drivers.

One cannot, however, get away from the fact that the

frequency of claims made drops with age; and this drop is not upset even in the age ranges where the family car is being driven by the owner's children—both while learning to drive and after they have passed the test. There is, however, probably something in the theory that the young drive more carefully when under instruction and when in their parents' cars than when they have their own.

It's not only elderly drivers which appeal to some insurers, but also elderly cars. After all, the same argument can be applied: an elderly car is unlikely to be driven so many miles as a more modern car. The frequency of claims is about 195 per 1,000 in any year for cars less than one year old, dropping for each year of age to about 100 per 1,000 for cars which have been on the road for eight years or longer.

With older cars less comprehensive insurance is bought, with cover being restricted to, say, third party, fire and theft.

Nevertheless, not far short of 40 per cent of all cars insured on comprehensive terms are more than five years old.

Of course, the actual cost of claims grows less with the age of a car. Quite simply, a car which is a total loss (whether through theft or by being a write off in an accident) will cost insurers less if it is fairly old, and also repairs can often be a little cheaper.

In the old days, when the value was taken into account in assessing premiums, as the value came down with age there was an automatic reduction in the premium. Now some insurers almost ignore the age of the car, whereas others knock something off the premium each year as the car grows older. Unfortunately, the average motorist does not notice this; it is usually more than absorbed by the premium increases which are being imposed across the board because of inflation.

JD

Round-up

## Latest in the round of unit trust mergers

This year has proved busy for unit trust mergers. The latest group to change hands are the Morgan Grenfell funds, run by merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell.

The funds were transferred to Gartmore Fund Managers for an undisclosed sum earlier in the week.

Gartmore is a major investment management group with its interests predominantly in investment trust companies. It diversified into unit trusts when it acquired the Cedar unit trusts from the troubled Cedar Management at the beginning of this year.

Morgan Grenfell has been in the unit trust business since 1969 during which time the stable has been expanded to embrace four funds. But in value these funds are only worth £6m, which is a remarkably low penetration for six years of unit trust selling. Gartmore, for example, has added £4.5m of new business in the past 10 months.

However, sales are not all that count. Morgan Grenfell is probably right to decide it is not in the retail end of financial services, but the wholesale department dealing with pension funds and the like. But the fact remains that unit holders have had an above average investment performance from this investment wholesaler; our tables give the group a good 1975 and three-

year performance record which certainly leaves Gartmore standing at the moment.

Surprisingly, there hasn't been a book which concentrated exclusively on unit trust investment until this weekend. The *Money Management's Unit Trust Year Book*, which has just been published by Woodhead-Faulkner in association with Slater, Walker Trust Management at £1.95.

It's a useful book with all the appropriate questions asked and answered. Chapters include how a fund works, different types of trusts, buying and selling units, tax and regular savings plans and advice about choosing a unit trust.

What is missing is information about the welter of unit trusts—some 353 at the end of November. However, general books on investment don't give specific information about all the stocks and shares on the market so why should a unit trust book spell out details on all funds?

It's a fair point, except that *Money Management's Unit Trust Year Book*, which gives virtually the same advice and information as this new book, also includes a full breakdown of funds, their charges, portfolios, and so on.

Pensions

## Scheme changes will affect early leavers most

What will happen to the benefits under your pension scheme if your employer decides to ignore the financial risks and contract out of the new state scheme starting in 1978?

In the most straightforward case an employer with a good scheme will not need to make much alteration. In this case a good scheme is one providing one-eighth or more of final pay for every year of service, and including a widow's pension of a half the member's pension or expected pension—a common enough package for the better employer.

It will be necessary to add a formal guarantee of the "guaranteed minimum pension", broadly corresponding to the state security earnings related element, overriding in appropriate circumstances the normal basis of pension calculation in the rules.

Only in the case of a member who leaves service, however, is this likely to have any effect. The guaranteed minimum pension will be based on average earnings, but will be revalued, both before you leave service and after, up to pensionable age (60 or 65 according to your sex) in line with national average earnings.

At the moment in most final salary schemes, the normal rules about leaving service after a pension based on pay at the date you leave, the statutory basis for frozen pensions.

If you leave at a youngish

age, the increases in the guaranteed minimum pension after you leave are likely to bring its amount above the rate you would have received under the limit, in real terms, of the possible shrinkage in your pension as a result of inflation—the guaranteed minimum pension must be maintained in real value by the revaluation and at that level your rights are inflation-proofed.

In most schemes your frozen rights if you leave will consist only of retirement benefits for yourself—either pension or lump sum—and a pension to your widow if you die after you start to draw your own pension. There is not likely to be a widow's pension if you die before your pension starts. Most schemes in this case pay back the member's own contributions, but offer no other benefit.

Here again you can look for an improvement in the terms of the scheme if it is to be contracted out: any contracted out scheme must provide members who leave with a preserved widow's pension payable on death at any time after leaving service, whether death occurs before or after pensionable age.

But, if you stay in the scheme until you are due to draw your pension, you are not likely to gain anything at all. On the contrary, there may well be some minor changes in the rules which limit your freedom of choice in a number of respects.

Quite possibly you have the

right, when you retire, to take a lump sum in exchange for part of your pension. This will be acceptable for contracting out purposes, but the part which constitutes the guaranteed minimum pension must always be taken in pension form.

That means that when you come to retire, your scheme managers will have to check the amount of your guaranteed minimum pension. The only part of your total pension you will be allowed to exchange for a lump sum will be the excess over the guaranteed minimum.

Quite often you will still be left with a good margin which you can take in cash; you may even find that your normal cash rights are not restricted at all, especially if the build-up rate is one sixth, or if you are entitled to a cash sum on top of a pension building up at one eighth for each year.

The people who will be most likely to lose out will be those who are not in a scheme very long before 1978—or join after that date—and who are due to retire before 1998. For them, the guaranteed minimum pension builds up at one eighth for each year, and could very easily therefore use up the whole of their normal scheme pension.

The only parts which could be taken in cash form if the pension is one eighth for each year are rights earned before 1978, and the part of the pension relating to earnings just below the lower limit of just under a quarter of national

average earnings or above the upper limit of about one and a half times.

Contracted out schemes do not have to provide benefits at all for these two slices of earnings, but a lot of schemes in fact exclude a lower band of earnings—often less than the slice under the new state scheme—but most provide benefits for higher paid employees without an upper cut-off point.

The loss or restriction of the right to take cash is likely to leave you worse off as far as tax is concerned: even if you want a regular income rather than a lump sum, you would probably take the cash and spend it on an annuity from an insurance company, because you then pay tax on only part.

A similar situation may arise if you die before retirement, although in this case the level of benefit under the state scheme is so low, except for people with most of their working lifetime behind them, that occupational schemes providing a widow's pension are likely to meet the necessary minima.

On the other hand, if the death benefit under your scheme is in the form of a lump sum rather than a widow's pension, part of it will have to be switched over to pension form, with the same tax disadvantage for your widow as you will suffer at retirement from loss of lump sum rights then.

Finally, you may find some

loss of flexibility in retirement age. The position is not likely to be affected if you stay on after your normal retirement of increase which is well within the rate allowed by schemes at the present time.

Early retirement is a different question: it is an absolute requirement that the pension from pensionable age must be at least the guaranteed minimum amount. This applies irrespective of the earlier start of the pension.

If your scheme pension rate is an eighth for each year and there is very little margin against the guaranteed minimum, you may not be possible to start drawing your pension earlier.

Even if there is more margin, it will be impossible to predict how national average earnings will move in the period up to your normal pensionable age. It will therefore involve the scheme managers in the risk of having to supplement the pension by bringing it up to guaranteed minimum level at pensionable age if they agree to your premature retirement on a reduced pension.

In this particular case, hardship could result for anyone who falls ill or becomes redundant. At the very best, it is likely that in these circumstances the right to take a cash pension in exchange for part of the pension will be withdrawn completely.

Eric Brunet

Tax

## Expensive warnings for the late payers

If you are employed, income tax on your salary is deducted at source under PAYE assuming the code number correct, the theory is that there should be little, if any, tax under or overpaid by the end of the tax year. If there is an underpayment it will be collected under PAYE during the next year and if there is overpayment it will be repaid.

Where there are other sources of income on which tax is due, for example, dividend account interest, or investment income already taxed source but on which the 10 per cent surcharge is payable, the tax office collects by issuing what is called assessment notice. On it, the amount of the underpayment is assessed and is reckoned to be taxable and a liability.

One of the mysteries of tax legislation is the method of assessing the income to which you might think, for instance, that £100 deposit account interest received in the year ended April 5, 1975 would be taxable for 1974-75. Not so, less the account had been opened or closed. The reason is that the income is normally assessed on a "p" basis. In other words the £100 received in 1974-75 is assessed for 1975-76. Not that the inland Revenue misses out on a year's way—they are too clever for that.

Continuing the example deposit account interest (assuming the tax is not collected through the PAYE system, as sometimes happens) the tax on an assessment for 1975-76 is payable on June 1, 1976, or 30 days after the issue of the assessment notice if this date is later.

If the taxpayer is a little tardy in sending in his or her return the tax office will more often than not issue an estimated assessment (usual during the autumn) because the precise figure of income is not known.

It goes without saying that normally the estimate will be excessive. In which case the taxpayer, if his adviser was wise, and applied for an assessment within 30 days of its issue (the date will be shown on the notice) over the estimate stands and the tax must be paid by the due date.

On the other hand if the estimate is too low and an appeal is made the taxpayer does not escape with a large tax bill. When the correct figure is established an additional assessment will be issued and the extra tax must be paid.

The procedure for collecting the outstanding tax has been tightened up considerably in this year's Finance Act, and it applies to all assessments issued after July 31, 1975. To avoid having to pay the tax shown in the estimated assessment, the normal date for the taxpayer to apply for an assessment must not only appeal against the assessment within the 30 days but he must also quantify the amount of the tax estimated to be excessive and as for a postponement. In fact, he must give the ground for believing the tax to be overcharged.

Once agreement has been reached with the tax office (with the Commissioners of the land Revenue if there are difficulties) the tax is payable on the normal date or 30 days after the date of the assessment notice if the date is later. If there is a delay in settling the bill, interest will run from the date at the rate of 3 per cent annum net, or otherwise there is no tax relief, those at the top end of income scale paying tax at a gross rate of interest of 10 per cent.

As far as the tax held is concerned it will be paid 30 days after the liability is finally agreed and interest run from that date except here is the rub, that the tax is not paid until six months after the normal date. For example it starts to run from the date of the assessment notice, but the normal date is January 1, 1976. The estimate has proved to be excessive the interest will be charged from July 1 of the difference between the liability and the tax actually paid.

If the agreed liability is more than the original estimate the tax office will make up the difference. This extra tax is payable after the normal date of assessment. If extra tax is not paid by the normal date, interest will be charged at 9 per cent net.

I was discussing about way in which deposit account interest is assessed but now they are having different for different sources of income. Not only that, the dates of payment of tax are different, the principle of the assessment is different, and the interest on tax is different.

The pressure is now on payers and their advisers to deal more promptly with the returns if interest is to be to a minimum.

Vera Di Pol







## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Commodities

Continued from page 23

**COFFEE**—Robusta futures again moved upward during afternoon trading in London, with active interest in the market. The price of Robusta coffee rose to 115.50 pence, up from 115.00 pence on 11th. Sales of 100 tons. The price of Arabica coffee rose to 115.00 pence, up from 114.50 pence on 11th. Sales of 100 tons.

## Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	11%
First London Secs	11%
C. Hoare & Co	11%
Lloyds Bank	11%
Midland Bank	11%
Nat Westminster	11%
Royal Bank	11%
Shenley Trust	11%
20th Century Bank	11%
Williams & Glyn's	11%

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55	25	Armitage & Rhodes	28	—
99	94	Deborah Services	99	—
137	90	Henry Sykes	137	—
61	18	Twinlock Ord	22xd	-1
66	45	Twinlock 12% ULS	53	—
62	48	Unilock Holdings	59xd	—











